US Chinook helicopter shot down in Iraq; 15 killed

Story below, Col. 1

'Jueteng' alive but task force dead

AKALA KO BA MAGRE-RESIGN SYA!

By Christian V. Esguerra *in Manila* **and Melvin Gascon** *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

IT APPEARS that tough-talking Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. may have eaten his

'JUETENG'/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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- **Gov't raises tariffs on finished products** BUSINESS /B1
- **Kobe booed, cheered** SPORTS /A28

House tells SC: We are not under you

88 lawmakers stand by Davide impeachment

By Carlito Pablo and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE HOUSE of Representatives has a message for the Supreme Court: Back off.

By 4 p.m. today, the House will formally respond to the high court's status quo order regarding the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

"Simply put, we will tell the Supreme Court that it has no jurisdiction over the House," said Rep. Rolex Suplico (LDP, Iloilo), a member of the House legal team.

But Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. adopted a less confrontational approach. He said the House's submission of its 20-page "Special Appearance with Manifestation" was proof that the chamber was strictly adhering to the constitutional process.

"We are not defying the Supreme Court," De Venecia said. "We are complying with the Constitution's mandate for us to respond."

The House will submit its reply, through its legal counsel, even as anti-impeachment congressmen continued their *agaw-pirma* (signature-snatching) campaign, in an attempt to bring the number of signatories in the second complaint against Davide below 76, or one-third of the House membership. Lakas party officials claimed 10 of their 17 colleagues who had supported the complaint had already agreed to withdraw their signatures.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye urged the House to take a second look at the Commission on Audit's report on the disbursement of the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF) at the committee level, to break the impasse between the House and the Supreme Court.

In an interview with RMN radio, Bunye said the COA report should provide the key to breaking the impasse because

HOUSE/ A22

COMMISSION ON AUDIT

JOAN BONDOC

THANKS FOR REFUND. COA's all-female team of auditors was the one that uncovered the overcharging by Meralco and power cooperatives. From left: Edna Saluguban, Elena Agustin, Raquel Gorgonio, Magdalena Soriano, Angelita Aquino, Ludy de Leon, Iluminada Vaflor Fabrea and Cheryll Apalisoc. They are the Civil Service Commission's Pag-Asa ng Bayan Awardees this year.

Meet 'Powerpuff Girls' of COA

By Volt Contreras

CALL them the "Powerpuff Girls" of the Commission on Audit, whose keen eye for accounting distortions and resolve to avoid being wined and dined by the businessmen they scrutinize led to the string of victories of the public over overcharging electric companies.

If you are already getting or about to get a refund in your electric bill, you largely owe it to the eight-member audit team that reviewed Manila Electric Co.'s books in 1995. The all-female team found that the giant power distributor had wrongly included its income tax among the costs recoverable from consumers.

Then there's Cheryll Apalisoc, who single-handedly uncovered the malpractice committed by at least four electric cooperatives in the provinces in computing the controversial purchased power adjustment (PPA).

The government, through the Civil Service Commission, saluted these silent whistle-blowers in September

MEET/ A5

So where's our money? ask court employees

By Carlito Pablo and Christian V. Esguerra

WHERE did the money go?

The executive committee of the 25,000-strong Alliance of the Court Employees Associations of the Philippines yesterday said they regretted having been turned into "mere pawns" in the impeachment crisis, when all they wanted was to know how the controversial Judiciary Development Fund was being spent.

If their demand would lead to the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., then so be it, the Aceap executive committee said in a statement.

"He should subject himself to investigation because it's the only way for us to learn the real score about the JDF," Aceap president Jose Dante Guerrero told the INQUIRER.

But one anti-impeachment congressman, Liberal Party president Florencio Abad of Batanes, said the real score had already been computed by the Commission on Audit, and it was positive for court employees.

Citing COA documents, Abad said the high court under Davide was able to increase by "thrice or even more" the cost of living allowance (Cola) due to employees from the JDF between 2000 and 2002, compared to the 1995-1999 period.

Abad pointed out this detail amid re-

SO WHERE/ A22

Crisis provides opportunity for reunions

By Carlito Pablo; Jhunnex Napallacan, *PDI Visayas Bureau* **and Nash B. Maulana** *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

OUTPOURINGS of support for Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. continued nationwide yesterday from past friends and present colleagues, as well as complete strangers young and old.

Former dorm mates and fraternity brods of brothers Hilario III and Bryan Davide from the University of the Philippines-Diliman said they had found a new reason to get together, more meaningful than the occasional nights out and reunions.

These pals from the early 1980s have joined civil society drives—text and e-mail brigades, website setups, boycott of San Miguel Corp. products—to defend the Chief Justice from his tormentors.

"Redjecks" Batch '81, who shared the third floor of the UP Kalayaan Residence Hall for freshmen, are rallying around Hilario III or "Junjun," who occupied Room No. 323.

Junjun is legal counsel for younger

CRISIS/ A22

Impeach rap raises issue of abuse of power by House

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE IMPEACHMENT complaint lodged against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. is a trailblazing constitutional case in more ways than one.

It is not only the first time that the Chief Justice of the Philippine Supreme Court has been impeached. It follows in just three years the impeachment of Joseph Estrada, the first Filipino President ever to stand trial at the Senate.

Thus, we are witness to two impeachment cases being brought against heads of two key institutions of Philippine democracy—the presidency and the judiciary—within a space of three years, reflecting the fragility and instability of our constitutional system based on the principle of checks and balances.

The rapid sequence of impeachment cases involving key institutional heads illustrates the capricious use of impeachment as a constitutional instrument to remove officials accused of abusing of power, corruption and betrayal of public trust.

The capriciousness is emphasized by the fact that two impeachment cases have been initiated against Davide within a space of one year.

The second case, alleging corruption in the disbursement of the Judiciary Development Fund, came on the heels of the dismissal by the House of Representatives of the first complaint, impeaching Davide and seven other Supreme Court justices for the court's intervention in installing then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President following the collapse of the Estrada administration

IMPEACH / A21

US helicopter shot down by missile in Iraq, killing 15

BAISA, Iraq—Guerrillas shot down an American helicopter in Iraq on Sunday, killing at least 15 US personnel and wounding 21 in the bloodiest single strike on US-led forces since they invaded Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein.

The crippled Chinook helicopter crashed in a farm at 9 a.m. (0600 GMT) near the village of Baisa, south of Falluja, a fiercely anti-US town 50 km west of the capital.

US helicopters circled above the smoking wreckage. Other helicopters and US Humvee vehicles were parked nearby.

US Army spokesperson Col. William Darley told reporters that the cause of the crash was under investigation. Other US officials and witnesses said the helicopter, carrying troops on a rest and recreation break, had been shot down.

Some Iraqis were jubilant. "The Americans are pigs. We will hold a celebration because this helicopter went down—a big celebration," said wheat farmer Saadoun Jaralla near the crash site. "The Americans are enemies of mankind."

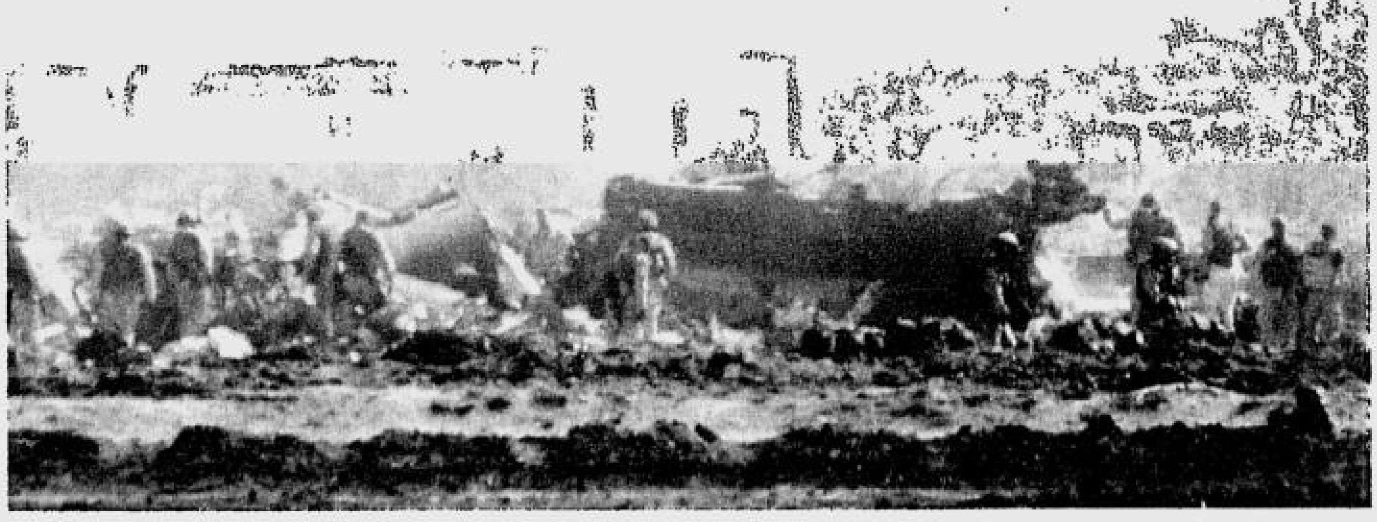
It was the third time guerrillas had brought down a US helicopter since President George W. Bush declared major combat over in Iraq on May 1. The Americans invaded in March.

"Clearly it is a tragic day for Americans," US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told ABC television. "In a long hard war we are going to have tragic days."

But he said the United States would not be deterred and would win the war in Iraq.

Bush vowed on Saturday to stand firm and said leaving Iraq prematurely would strengthen the "terrorists" he said were to blame for recent deadly suicide attacks.

US HELICOPTER/ A8



US SOLDIERS rush to the crash site of a Chinook helicopter, which was shot down on Sunday at a stronghold of anti-US resistance in Iraq.

REUTERS

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience rains and occasional gusty winds. The rest of Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while Visayas and Mindanao will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/03/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

MILF offers to hunt down JI

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front, long suspected of coddling the Jemaah Islamiyah, has offered to assist the government in its manhunt against operatives of the regional terrorist group who are believed to be in the country.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu yesterday said they are only awaiting the final guidelines of a joint communique that would authorize the MILF to go after outlaws such as the Abu Sayyaf bandit group and the JI in Mindanao.

"We're very willing to help," he told the INQUIRER. "We need only an assurance that we would not get into trouble once we make our move."

The military has intensified its manhunt for operatives of the JI which President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared as the top threat to the country's national security.

The JI, believed to have links to the al-Qaida terror network of Saudi-born Osama bin Laden, seeks the establishment of a radical Pan-Islamic enclave across Southeast Asia.

Recent arrests of top JI leaders in the Philippines have exposed the group's growing presence in the country.

A 23-year-old Indonesian suspect Taufek Refke, the alleged JI paymaster in the Philippines, was arrested in Cotabato City on Oct 2. Refke is allegedly the JI's number-two man in the Philippines.

His arrest led government forces to an alleged JI hideout in Cotabato City, where they recovered bomb-making equipment and radical Islamic literature.

Refke is believed to have trained under JI bomb expert Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

Under the communique prepared in May last year, the MILF would be part of a joint action group that would work for the "isolation and interdiction of criminal elements and other syndicated crimes operating in Mindanao," Kabalu said.

The group will include Undersecretary Abraham Puruganan, Deputy Director Gen. Virtus Gil, Philippine National Police chief for operations, and the MILF's Abdul Dataya and Safrullah Dipatuan, the spokesperson said.

Kabalu said the MILF's offer to track down JI members was part of his group's commitment to the ongoing peace negotiations with the government.

The military said some 40 other JI militants, most of whom are believed to be Indonesians, are on the loose in Mindanao, where a massive manhunt has been launched.

Pending formal peace talks, both the PNP and the Armed Forces were ostensibly cautious not to mention the MILF in their operations against the JI even if the secessionist group had long been suspected of coddling the Islamic terrorist network.

Police and military intelligence officials had earlier admitted that the JI operated training schools inside the MILF's Camp Abubakar which was overran by government troops in 2000.

One Army official noted that in every major MILF camp was a "community of Indonesians" believed to be schools where JI recruits were trained on terrorist tactics.

Kabalu admitted that there are hundreds of Indonesians in Mindanao, particularly in Davao, General Santos, Saranggani, and South Cotobato.

But it was unlikely, he said, they were JI recruits because most of them are non-Muslims who have been staying in the country for at least 10 years.

As this developed, President Macapagal Arroyo is expected to visit this week war-torn villages in Pikit, North Cotabato to inaugurate one of the peace and development projects aimed at uplifting the socio-economic lives of farmers in Mindanao.

The President will inaugurate and open a bridge and a siphon project of the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project (MMIP) in Barangay Gocotan.

In Davao City which she visited earlier, the President issued a statement saying she would unveil in Pikit another P7-billion infrastructure package for less developed areas in Mindanao. *With Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lamitan 'hero' not wanted in GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Capt. Ruben Guinolbay, one of the acknowledged heroes in the controversial siege of Lamitan, Basilan, was declared "persona non grata" by the city council here on Thursday for his alleged involvement in a mauling incident.

Guinolbay, commander of the 11th Scout Ranger Co. under the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion deployed in Palimbang town, Sultan Kudarat, has been barred from this city after he, together with his men, stormed the Bula police precinct here early Monday morning.

Guinolbay allegedly mauled a son of a former local court judge and his two companions in front of policemen. His men also pointed their rifles at two policemen on duty who tried to call up city police headquarters for reinforcements.

Councilor Franklin Gacal Jr., one of the proponents of the measure, delivered a strongly worded privilege speech denouncing the excesses committed by Guinolbay and his men.

"I condemn in the strongest terms the abuses committed by the Scout Rangers against the civilians. Instead of being the protector of civilians, the soldiers are now the ones harming the civilians," Gacal said.

The resolution was unanimously approved by the city council.

Guinolbay was relieved on Thursday as company commander of the 11th Scout Ranger Co. and was placed under the custody of the 6th Infantry Division in Camp Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

Meanwhile, Senior Supt. Jorge Aquisap, city police director, said that sedition charges have been filed against Guinolbay and his men before the Office of the Ombudsman Mindanao.

Aquisap said they expect the Ombudsman to resolve the case within a couple of weeks.

Police on duty at the Bula precinct were getting the statements of Pedro Animas V and his two companions when Guinolbay and his men arrived and took turns beating the trio.

The victims had been invited by the police to give their accounts of an incident involving a brawl between Sgt. Edwin Romero and a certain Arnold Sotto.

Animas and his friends witnessed the incident at the Mamagaya Resto bar but were not a party to it.

Aquisap, however, assured residents here that the incident will not affect the cordial relations between the police and military.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, chief of the Army's 601st Infantry Brigade here, told reporters that because of the incident, the entire Scout Ranger Battalion was pulled from his unit effective Friday.

The 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion, which was under the operational control of the 601st Brigade, was deployed to Palimbang town in July to help track down Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani and his men.

Yano said he was deeply saddened by the incident. "That was an unfortunate and isolated incident. I assure you this will not happen again," Yano said. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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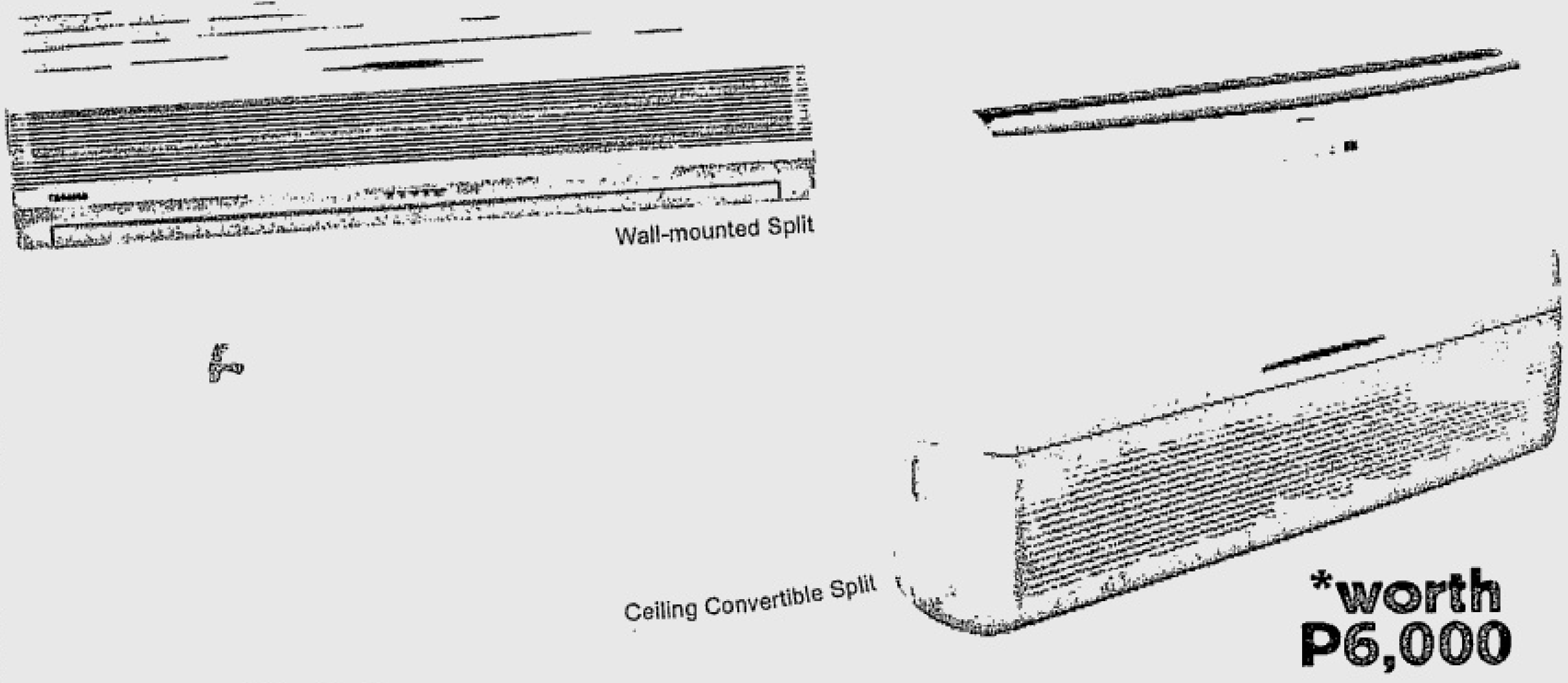

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.: 4404, SERIES OF 2003

Bigger rice, corn harvests make up for earlier deficits

By Norman Bordadora

A THIRD-quarter rebound in rice and corn harvests has overturned the deficit in the first two quarters brought about by typhoons, the Department of Agriculture announced yesterday.

Statistics from the Bureau of Agriculture showed that the third quarter rice output of 2.43 million metric tons (MT) was 20.4 percent higher than the 2.02 million MT harvested in the same period last year.

This fueled projections that the entire 2003 palay production would exceed last year's by almost 190,000 MT.

Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. said government support in terms of fertilizer subsidy, ample availability of hybrid and certified seeds for rice, and the timely release of calamity funds had more than paid off.

The El Niño phenomenon had clipped the first semester palay harvest, resulting in a decline of 5.1 percent from its 2002 levels.

On the other hand, corn is expected to compensate for its production shortfall of 5.4 percent in the third quarter with an anticipated increase of 30.2 percent in the fourth quarter, or up to 1.12 million MT from last year's same-period output of 858,200 MT.

This fourth quarter output would enable the 2003 corn harvest to surpass last year's by almost 290,000 MT, Lorenzo said.

Super typhoons

Two super typhoons, namely Harurot and Niña, hit corn-producing areas in Cagayan Valley and the Cordilleras last July and August, diminishing the expected output.

Because of increased harvest in the third quarter, the bureau is projecting the outlook for the first quarter of 2004 to be bright for both corn and un-milled rice, as their outputs are expected to improve by yet another six percent over this year's levels.

In addition to this, Lorenzo said, the GMA ("Gintong Masaganang Ani") Rice Program under Director Frisco Malabanan, has embarked on a "quick-turnaround" strategy encouraging farmers to plant immediately after their last harvest.

The agriculture chief gave credit to "the growing number of farmers taking on modern technology, achieving three to four times more output per hectare." He cited a farmer in Occidental Mindoro "who harvested 297 cavans or 14.6 MT of palay per hectare from his irrigated farm."

Average output in previous years stood at between 60 and 80 cavans per hectare.

"Increments in corn production are also the result of the intensified seed dispersal initiative under the GMA Corn Program since early 2003, allowing corn yields, notably of the white variety, to improve to 1.91 MT per hectare," Lorenzo said.

Mutineers' release hailed; leaders' prosecution urged

By Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. RODOLFO Biazon said yesterday Malacañang's order releasing 133 military officers and men who had been "misled" into joining the July 27 Oakwood mutiny would "serve the cause of justice," even as he urged the government to focus on the prosecution of those behind the illegal action.

"Their release would also address the alleged betrayal of the agreement forged between Ambassador (Roy) Cimatu and leaders of the Magdalo group who were held responsible for the July 27 incident," Biazon said. The agreement to surrender had included the release of the mutinous soldiers who had merely followed orders.

Two weeks ago, Biazon said he visited the 321 detainees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who were involved in what the Feliciano Commission described as a coup attempt against the Macapagal administration.

The senator, a former AFP chief of staff, went to the various military camps where the detainees were held. He also visited the alleged leaders of the coup led by Lt.(s.g.) Antonio Trillanes at Camp Aguinaldo.

In a phone interview, Biazon said many of the detainees were enlisted personnel who had been merely following their superiors' orders.

Names on diskettes

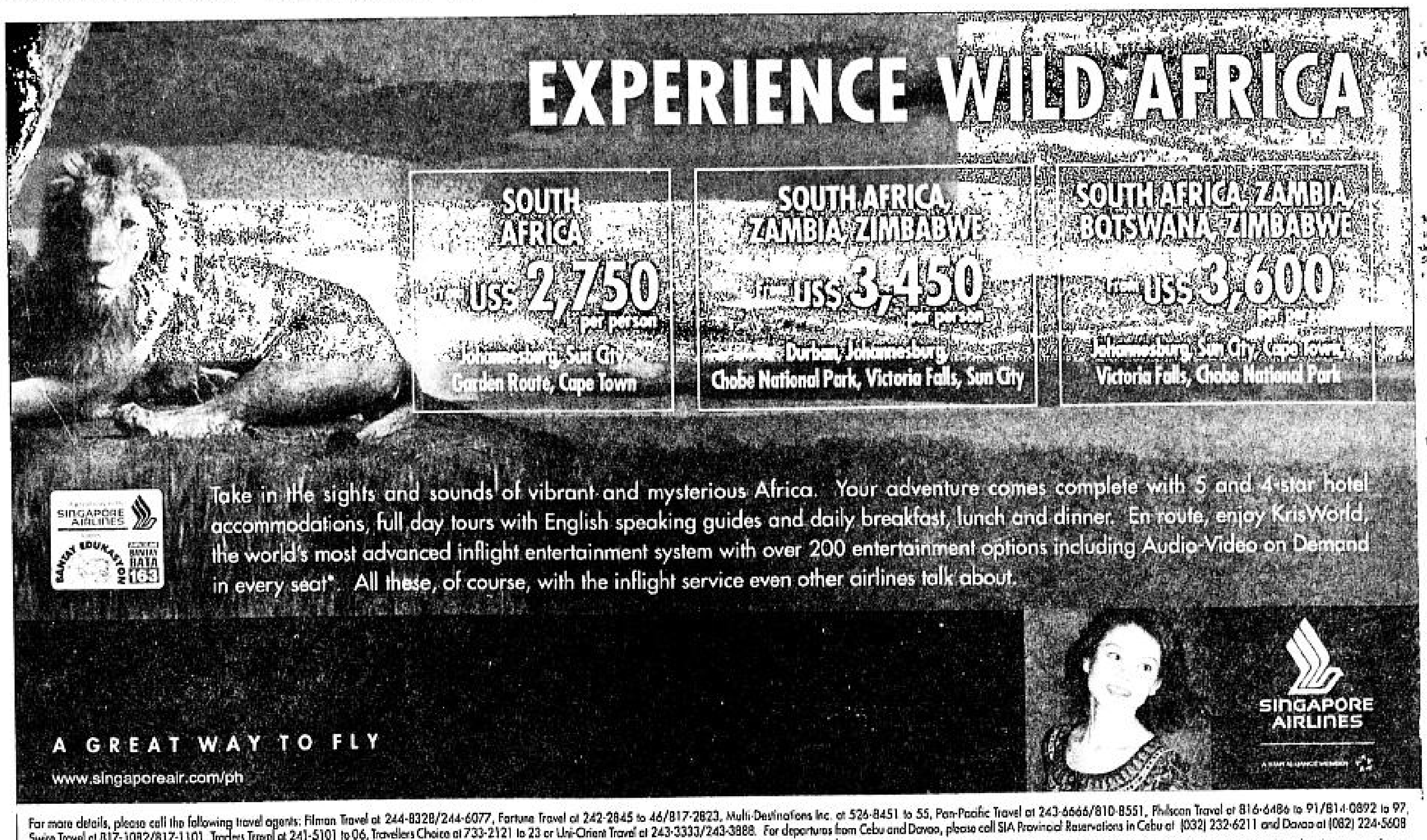
He said some of them told him they were held after their names appeared on diskettes seized by the authorities at the Oakwood Hotel in Makati City where the Magdalo group made its stand.

Biazon said after visiting the camps, he told Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita about the need for the AFP to quickly conclude its investigation into the detainees' involvement in the coup try.

He said the government should start prosecuting the leaders of the mutiny, noting these officers held "positions of command and responsibility over their subordinates."

But the senator also urged relatives of the officers and men who may be found innocent to be patient as the authorities conclude their investigation.

President Macapagal-Arroyo the other day ordered the release of 133 AFP officers and men found to have been "deceived and misled" into participating in the coup try.



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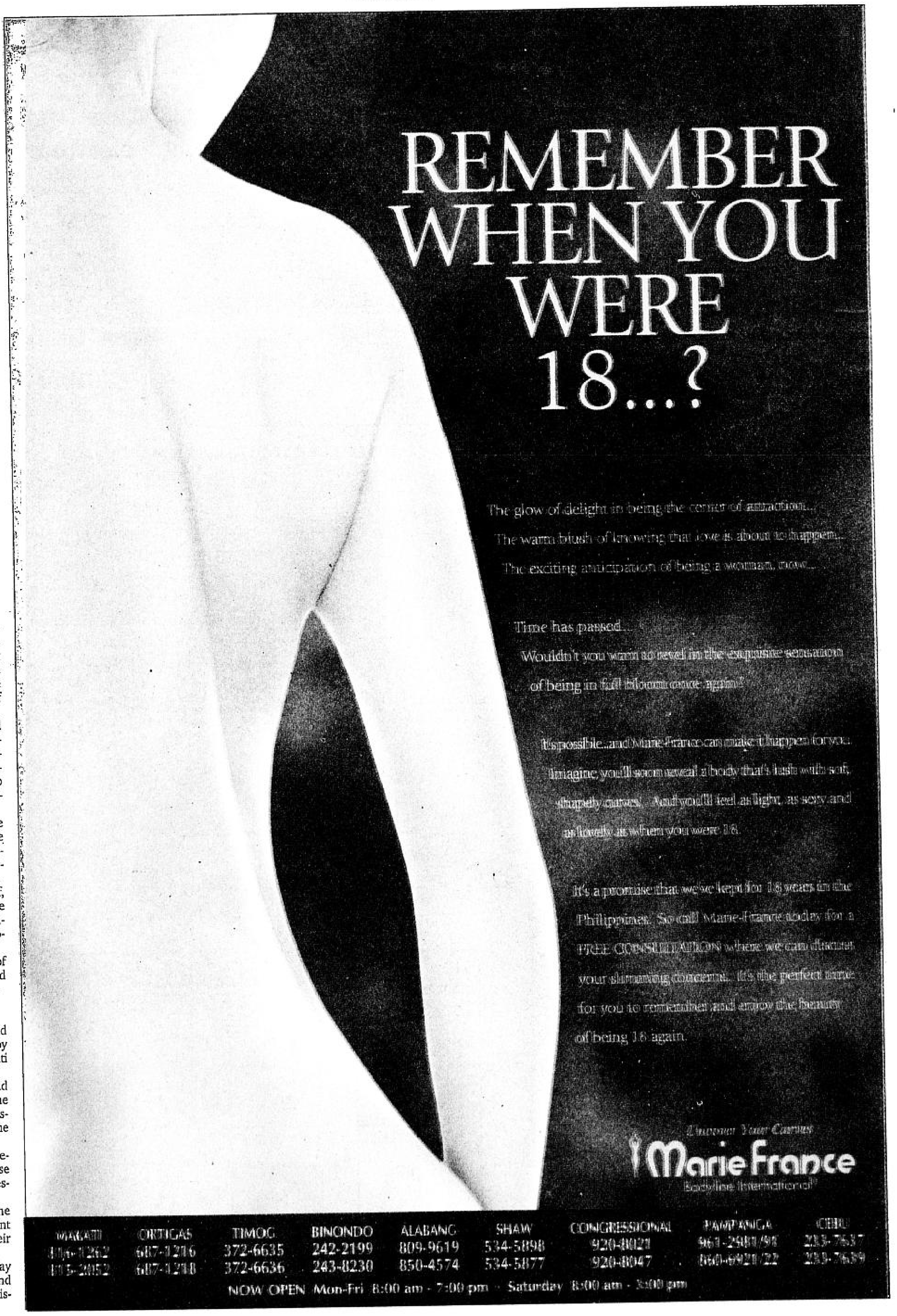

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National Reconciliation and Unity Through A Dynamic Postal Service

105th Philippine Postal Corporation Anniversary

MESSAGES

It is with great pleasure that I send my cordial greetings to the **Philippine Postal Corporation (Philpost)** as you celebrate 105 years of providing postal services to the Filipino people.

Since its inception, Philpost has been a reliable communications arm of the government. You help bring government closer to the public, ensuring close coordination between national and local agencies and facilitating the implementation of programs and projects for the people.

I am pleased to note that you endeavor to continually improve and create a more dynamic postal service. This shows your commitment to remain the country's premier postal service provider, amidst the continuing advancements in communications.

I also commend you for echoing my administration's call for solidarity in building a peaceful and progressive Philippines as evident in your theme, "National Reconciliation and Unity through Dynamic Postal Services." I look forward to our continued partnership in advancing our national interests.

Again, congratulations and rest assured of my full support to all your endeavors for the benefit of the Filipino people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GMArroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Throughout its one-hundred five years of existence, the Philippine postal system has provided vital information and comunication links for Filipinos as well as for people of other nations.

Through the years, the national postal system has successfully confronted the challenges brought about by technological advancements as well as direct competition from both domestic and international players in the postal and courier services industry.

Notably, the men and women of the Philippine Postal Corporation have managed to improve the quality and security of its services to meet the increasingly demanding standards imposed by postal patrons here and across the world.

This year's anniversary theme, **"National Reconciliation and Unity through Dynamic Postal Services,"** underscores the importance of communicating with one another to attain our people's dream of peace and development.

It is in this light that I join the loyal, honest, and dedicated men and women of the Philippine Postal Corporation in celebrating their 105th year of serving all Filipinos.

May your commitment to be crucial players in our collective goal of reconciling the interests of various sectors of society and uniting the Filipino nation come to fruition in the immediate future.

Congratulations! Mabuhay!

LEANDRO R. MENDOZA
DOTC Secretary

My warmest greetings to all my colleagues in the Philippine Postal Corporation as we celebrate the 105th Anniversary of the national postal service. Together, we have succeeded in maintaining our predominance in the market for postal and courier services amidst the growing competition from private industry players as well as technological advancement that have threatened to push the postal industry into obsolescence.

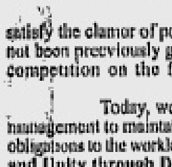
Despite these difficulties, we have substantially improved our operational as well as financial performance during the first semester of this year. Through sound policy decisions, prudent use of our resources by management and cooperation of organized labor, we are well on our way towards financial stability.

Our 105th anniversary theme, **"National Reconciliation and Unity through Dynamic Postal Services,"** not only responds to a need expressed by leaders of our nation and felt by majority of the Filipino people. It brings to fore the benefits of collective action towards the attainment of our corporate goals and objectives. In our case, our performance substantially improved almost as soon as management and labor have entered into a Collective Negotiations Agreement.

I hope that our bid to provide dynamic postal services to help reconcile the interests of various sectors of society and finally unite our people will be taken in a positive light by all concerned. With their trust and confidence, we will not only be able to significantly contribute in forging the destiny of our nation, we will be able to further improve our services that willl ultimately redound to the benefit of each and every Filipino.

Cheers to all postal workers. Mabuhay ang PhilPost!

MANUEL A.BARCELONA JR.
PhilPost Chairman of the Board



It is with great pride that I greet my fellow postal workers on the occasion of the 105th Anniversary celebration of the national postal service.

In less than one year of my assumption of the duties and responsibilities as Postmaster General, we have proven that we work together in harmony. We could turn around what used to be a seemingly irreversible financial downtrend.

As a result of our collective efforts, we have been able to satisfy the clamor of postal workers nationwide for long overdue benefits rthat have not been previously given as a result of the negative impact of direct and indirect competition on the financial position of the Philippine Postal Corporation.

Today, we are enjoying the positive impact of reconciling the duty of management to maintain the corporation's financial stability and the need to meet its obligations to the worklers. Thus, we have adopted the theme, **"National Reconciliation and Unity through Dynamic Postal Services,"** to contribute to the realization of the Filipino people's quest for peace and development as well as to highlight the positive effects that reconciliation and unity that we have experienced this year.

I hope that we can continue working earnestly together in further improving our services by professionalizing our ranks and keeping in mind the gains that we have thus far accomplished as a cohesive team of non-tax dependent government workers.

Congratulations to all the men and women of PhilPost for a job well done.

DIOMEDIO P. VILLANUEVA
Postmaster General & CEO

EMS HUBS SPEED UP DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY

Aware of the rapid technological advancement that is expected to bring about tight competition in telecommunications industry, the Philippine Postal Corporation has established the Express Mail Service Centers or the EMS hubs in Metro Manila and Cavite to enhance mail service and speed up delivery.

The present EMS only provides door-to-door delivery of international express mail serviced (IEMS) items for Metro Manila and Cavite. For the Domestic Express Mail, the delivery is undertaken by letter carriers assigned to post office under the National Capital Region delivering the traditional services.

The IEMS delivery is centralized at the Central Mail Express Center along Domestic Road, Pasay City. and EMS couriers have to travel from Pasay to various destinations in Metro Manila and Cavite to deliver the IEMS items.

With the creation of the EMS Service Centers, the delivery of EMS items, both domestic and international, will be the responsibility of the dedicated EMS couriers assigned at the EMS delivery hubs.

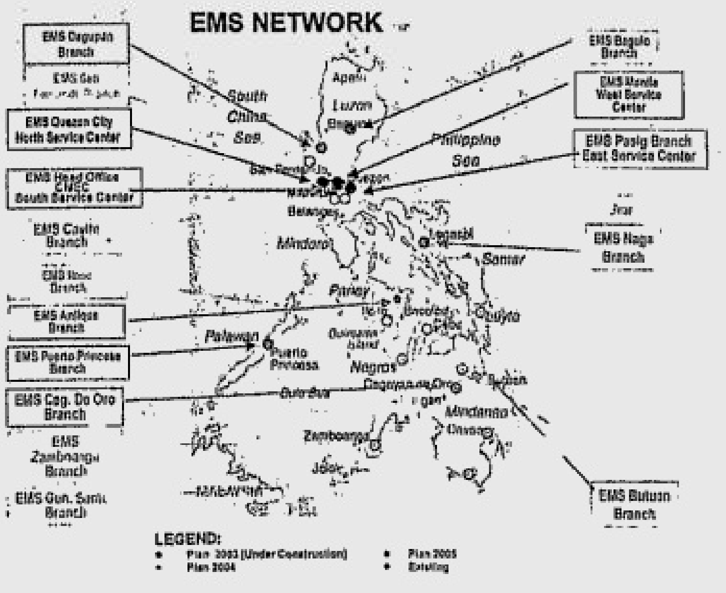
The first phase of the project includes the creation of EMS hubs for Metro Manila where EMS door-to-door delivery will be decentralized to three centers – the East Service Center, the West Service Center, the North Service Center, and the South Service Center.

The East Service Center at Pasig Central Post office will cater to deliveries of both domestic and international EMS intended for Pasig, Taguig, Marikina, and Pateros, while the West Service Center at the Manila Central Post Office will be responsible for EMS items for Manila, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Navotas, and Malabon.

On the other hand, the North Service Center at Quezon City Central Post Office will handle deliveries of EMS items for Quezon City, Caloocan and Valenzuela, and some parts of Bulacan such as Meycauayan, Marilao, Bocaue, Obando, and San Jose del Monte.

The South Service Center at CMEC, Pasay City will take care of EMS items for Makati, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Pinas, Muntinlupa, Bacoor, Imus and Dasmariñas.

With the creation of the EMS Service Centers or EMS hubs, a separate EMS network, dedicated door-to-door delivery personnel and facilities distinct and separate from the traditional postal services will be provided to improve efficiency of EMS delivery at part and even exceeding the capabilities of competitors.



E-Z money remittance through electronic postal money order

To adapt to customers' needs and compete with private couriers in the country, the PhilPost has introduced a new service line through its electronic postal money order (ePMO) system.

The ePMO is an electronic payment system that facilitates the transfer of money in an instant process It is the electronic version of the present postal money order.

It is a cash remittance service that integrates card system through the Internet, bringing the banking system conveniently to postal patrons everywhere.

Its most important features are faster transmission of remittance and larger networks. It also lessens losses due to fraud and inefficiency because transactions are securely logged and accessible on-line.

Likewise, the ePMO can easily reconciles transactions in ePMO stations while funds at ePMO stations are easily monitored.

The ePMO card serves as a repository of information/identification. All transactions are stored in a central database. The card management, merchant POS management, customer support, and loyalty applications run centrally at the secured and redundant Postal Bank data center.

PhilPost gains access to these programs using administrative workstations remotely attached via the Internet or lease line.

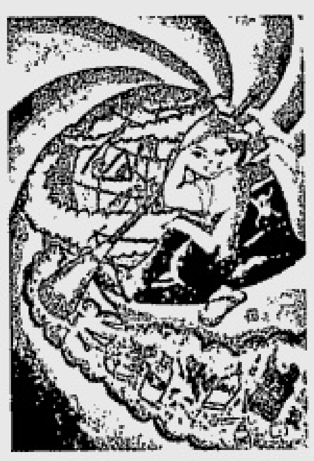
With these workstations, PhilPost can configure the card program, enroll customers, monitor transactions, request for reports, and carry out a wide variety of customer support and services.

A customer can also withdraw cash from any Bancnet or Megalink using the ePMO card.

Avail of ePMO card now at your nearest post office.

ePMO
ELECTRONIC POSTAL MONEY ORDER

PHILPOST HOLDS NATIONAL STAMP DESIGN TILT ON ILLEGAL DRUGS



NICOLE FERNAN L. CAMINIAN
1st PRIZE WINNER - Elementary Level
Colegio de San Jose, Jaro, Iloilo City

The Philippine Postal Corporation (PhilPost) has launched a nationwide stamp design contest dubbed "Ang Batang Pinoy Laban sa Droga," in support of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's all-out drive to fight illegal drugs in the country.

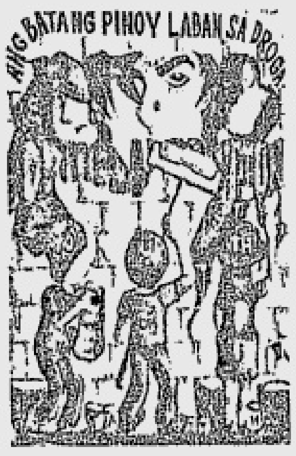
The contest aims to create awareness among the youth of their role in the anti-drug campaign of the government and give them a chance to interpret their ideas on the hazardous effects of drugs and how they can stay away from the stuff.

Elementary and high school students from public and private schools nationwide submitted their entries based on the contest theme "Ang Batang Pinoy Laban sa Droga."

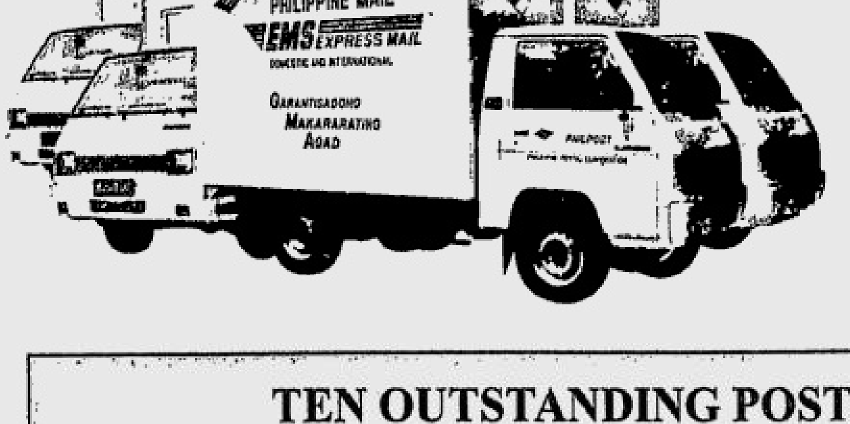
The winners in the elementary category were Nicole Fernan L. Caminian, Grade IV pupil at Colegio de San Jose, Iloilo City, who was awarded P25,000 in cash and stamp souvenir frame worth P3,000; Jairus Cabajar, Grade VI pupil at St. Mary's College, Sta. Maria, Ilocos sur, 2nd place, who received P10,000; and Jhon Rafael T. Garcia, Grade VI, of Rizal Elementary School, Sta. Cruz, Manila, 3rd place, who got P5,000.

In high school category, Genevieve V. Lazarte, 2nd year student at Liceo de Cagayan University High School, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City took away P20,000 and a souvenir frame worth P3,000. Other winners were Martin F. Rivera of Las Pinas High School, who received P15,000; and Keneth C. Aure of Jose Abad Santos High School, Binondo, Manila, who got P10,000.

Postmaster General Diomedio P.Villanueva said the first two winners in the elementary and high school categories will be featured in special stamps, while the third prize winners will be featured in the Official First Day cover of a magazine.


ANG BATANG PINOY LABAN SA DROGA

GENEVIEVE LAZARTE
1st PRIZE WINNER - High School Level
Liceo de Cagayan University High School
Cagayan de Oro City



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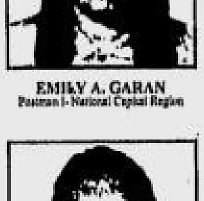
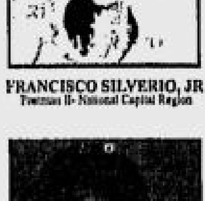
MAKAKARATING
AGAD ANG SULAT MO!

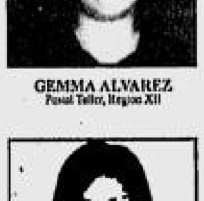
TEN OUTSTANDING POSTAL WORKERS
CY 2003



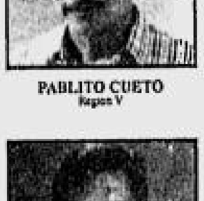
EMILY A. GARAN
Postman I- National Capital Region



FRANCISCO SILVERIO, JR.
Postman II- National Capital Region

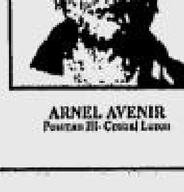


GEMMA ALVAREZ
Postal Teller, Region XII



PABLITO CUETO
Region V

FELIFRANCO GARCIA
POSTMASTER I - Region X

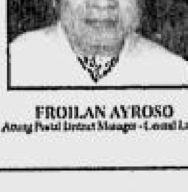


ARNEL AVENIR
Postman III- Central Luzon

ROGELIO GERMAN FLORIDA, JR.
Marketing Specialist - Head Office

EDIEL NOVO
Marketing Specialist -Region X

OSCAR BIOCO
Chief Postal Service Officer - Region VIII



FROILAN AYROSO
Acting Postal District Manager - Central Luzon

Advt.

Meet 'Powerpuff Girls' of COA

From page A1

with citations and cash awards. But as one of them told the INQUIRER, their sweeter reward came whenever plain housewives or friends in their neighborhood or parish approach them to say "Thank you for the refund, ha."

The Meralco audit team earned this year's CSC Pag-Asa ng Bayan Award. They are state auditors Elena Agustin, Raquel Gorgonio, Edna Salaguban, Ludy de Leon, Magdalena Soriano, Lita Aquino, Lourdes Moran and Nelia Velleza. The group shared a cash award of P50,000 and a trophy. Each received a gold medal.

Apalisoc was honored with the Presidential Dangal ng Bayan Award, which includes a cash prize of P100,000, a two-night stay at the Manila Hotel, and a one-rank promotion that will add P200 to her monthly paycheck.

All that for a few years' work checking on the honesty and fairness of the public utilities and government offices, which COA is mandated to review. COA undertakes an audit whenever utilities ask for a rate increase.

The job inevitably entails "pressures," to put it mildly. Apalisoc, who rents a P2,000-a-month room in Sampaloc, Manila and drives a P50,000 second-hand car, said that at one point during her audit of a power cooperative, she was offered "gasoline allowance" so that she would go easy on the co-op's books. "Is that all?" her giggling colleagues asked.

The CSC said Apalisoc stayed late in the office poring over the figures of the following co-ops and recommended that they give some money back to consumers: Davao Power and Light Co. (refund: P5.13 million), Negros Occidental Power Cooperative (P6.99 million), Cabanatuan Electric Corp. (P4.07 million) and Zambales II Electric Cooperative (P251,964).

The co-ops all "deviated from the formula" set by the Energy Regulatory Commission in computing the PPA, by including certain operational expenses in the computation, she told the INQUIRER. Her recommendations, though, are still pending with the ERC for implementation.

Apalisoc also recalled that one co-op's officials, who also included a local politician, once approached COA Chair Guillermo Carague to have her findings withdrawn at the last minute.

"They even claimed that they were actually 'close' to our chair. But later I learned that our chair turned them down by saying 'Let's all get rid of this rotten system of corruption,' so they were not able to do anything [about my report]," she said.

But outside her work on the power companies, Apalisoc said one of her scariest moments as state auditor was having to deal with a city official in Mindanao, who bluntly asked how much money it would take for her to look the other way. "He was cleaning his gun right in front of me" when he popped the question, she said in Filipino.

For the Meralco audit team, Agustin said her group hardly felt any heat "during" the audit because the firm was "very cooperative."

But it was after their recommendations were released and contested by Meralco in the courts that "we finally realized … how big was the wall we were up against."

In a landmark decision in Nov. 2002, the Supreme Court upheld COA and ERC's imposition of a refund to the tune of P28.15 billion, representing Meralco overcharges since 1994.

Nobody really approached the team with an offer or veiled threat, Agustin said, "but almost every day the issue was highly sensationalized in the media, especially with this [one newspaper columnist] questioning COA's capabilities."

The widely read columnist, she recalled, chided COA "for not being aware of globally accepted principles" in setting utility rates and "for sticking to our archaic ways."

"For me it hurt the most, because all we did was follow our rules," Agustin said.

Agustin said that a few days before her team released its report, Meralco officials showed up at the COA office, saying they were just wondering if the team had really seen all the pertinent documents.

The team was invited to go over supposedly new material at the Meralco office on Ortigas Avenue in Pasig. "But when we were in their conference room, they brought in stacks and stacks of folders all of which we had already seen before," Agustin said. The team members then exchanged knowing looks.

In hindsight, Agustin and her colleagues now think that it was Meralco's way of saying: "What more can we do for you? Should we go down on our knees and cry?"

Like Apalisoc, the auditors who checked the books of Meralco had their own private jokes about how rich they could already be if only they had opened themselves to bribes.

Almost all of them still take the jeepney to report for work. One said she used her share of the prize money to pay old debts, while another proudly showed off her current source of hope: a crumpled raffle ticket from Shoemart.

"My own teenage son once teased me about accepting money so I could send him to a better school," confided another. Still another said she once considered switching careers after examining government-owned corporations and found that their office secretaries and janitors were receiving bigger take-home pay than she was.

But ultimately, everyone in the team invoked the law of karma and fear of God.

"Initially, you really don't put much thought to it since you're only doing COA's duty," Agustin said. "But later you will realize as the figures swell into millions that you better be careful in your computation because it's money to be returned to the people. It becomes a commitment."

Asked what kept her to the straight and narrow path, Apalisoc said: "I think if you really love your job, you will see every detail of what should be done."

Did it help a lot that they were all women? "Well, we don't look intimidating and that's perhaps one reason we were easily accommodated [by the people being audited]," Agustin said and smiled. "But in the end they were always surprised by our [hard-hitting] reports."

And besides, "isn't it the men who can easily be invited to beer houses where things might be worked out over a few bottles?" Everyone, almost in chorus, agreed with a grin.

'Dear Judge,' court employees reply to 'Wimpy' letter

EMPLOYEES of the Camarines Sur courts have taken up the cudgels for Rep. Felix William Fuentebella, co-sponsor of the impeachment complaint against Supreme Court chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who has found himself in the eye of the storm.

Members of the Court Employees Association of Camarines Sur e-mailed the INQUIRER to reply to the letter to Fuentebella from RTC Judge Nilo Malanyaon of Pili, Camarines Sur.

In his letter, Malanyaon chastised Fuentebella for his action against Davide. Here is the court employees' reply:

'Dear Judge Malanyaon,

We write in behalf of the court employees of Camarines Sur who were responsible for putting our beloved Rep. Felix William Fuentebella in the frontline of the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

We think it is unfair that Representative Fuentebella, or Wimpy as you like to call him, should be castigated by you for initiating the impeachment complaint against Mr. Davide without finding out first how it all started and the circumstances that forced the hand of the House of Representatives.

As you may know by now, it was us, the Camarines Sur court employees, who first complained to Rep. Fuentebella in June 2002 about our shrinking cost of living allowance (Cola) which is taken from the now controversial Judicial Development Fund (JDF).

Rep. Fuentebella immediately brought our complaint to the floor of the House, hoping only to bring to the fore our problem. This was how the House came across the alleged irregularities in the disbursement of the JDF. [At the time], rumors were circulating the Supreme Court justices had purchased for themselves luxury cars worth millions of pesos.

It turned out that the problem of the dwindling Cola was not limited to the court employees of Camarines Sur.

After hearing that our complaint was being investigated by the House committee on justice upon the instigation of Rep. Fuentebella, thousands of other court employees joined the protests, as they still do now, against the apparent mismanagement of the JDF.

We believe Chief Justice Davide himself should be blamed for bringing this controversy to where it is now. Instead of answering our complaints on our shrinking Cola, the Chief Justice, we were told, tried to stonewall the House inquiry by refusing to cooperate under the guise of invoking the fiscal autonomy of the judiciary. Is he trying to hide something?

Instead of answering the complaints, Davide reportedly issued a gag order to all court employees against providing any documents related to the JDF to the House. Is Mr. Davide above the law?

It will be worthy to note that the House justice committee exhausted all remedies to prevent this open confrontation between the judiciary and the legislature.

Under these circumstances, can we blame Rep. Fuentebella and the ninety-odd Congress members for pushing for the impeachment of Mr. Davide?

On the contrary, we think we should support Rep. Fuentebella and his peers.

Contrary to the insinuation in your letter, we believe that Rep. Fuentebella's grandfather, former Camarines Sur Gov. Felix Fuentebella, and his father, former Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, would be very proud of him for standing up for what he believes is right and just.

For now, we believe the ball is in Davide's court.

(Sgd.) Edgar Sartida, president, Court Employees Association of Camarines Sur; Nadia Servino and Matet Limjoco, court interpreters, and Pilar Morandante, legal researcher.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 3, 2003
31st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 11:29-36
Gospel: Lk 14:12-14

Jesus addressed the man who had invited him and said, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite your friends, or your brothers and relatives and wealthy neighbors. For surely they will also invite you in return and you will be repaid. When you give a feast, invite instead the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Fortunate are you then, because they can't repay you; you will be repaid at the Resurrection of the upright."

Commentary

"But when you give a feast, invite instead the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Fortunate are you then, because they can't repay you." Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales of Lipa told the clergy of Manila during the celebration of the annual clergy day that the sacraments are not the ordinary ways to reach heaven. The ordinary way to reach heaven is through the poor and with the poor. He cited the case of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man went to hell not because he failed to receive the sacraments but because he took no notice of the poor Lazarus at the entrance of his gate begging for crumbs from his table while he feasted on rich and abundant foods. Blessed are you when among your friends are poor people. Blessed are you when you feel in solidarity with the poor. Blessed are you when you discover that salvation cannot be separated from the compassion for the poor.

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AVENUE Ground Floor Times Plaza, U.N. Ave. cor. Taft Ave., Manila (near Jollibee and Pancake House) • DEL MONTE AVENUE (beside ACA Video, in front of Sienna College) 448-7561 • SUKI MARKET, MAYON (Mayon Side, beside BPI ATM Express) • DON ANTONIO HEIGHTS 932-5701 • ONE MERCEDES PLAZA Mercedes St., cor. Market Ave.,San Miguel, Pasig City (beside Rustan's Xpresslane) • N. DOMINGO (in front of PSBank-Pinaglabanan) • MAYPAJO, CALOOCAN (A. Mabini, beside YKL) • A. MABINI, CALOOCAN 513 A. Mabini St. cor. Gen. Luis St., Caloocan City 324-5239 (near ACA Video) • SAVER'S MALL PASAY -Ground Floor, Saver's Square Building, EDSA Extension, Pasay City (beside Mr. Donut) • PASAY, LIBERTAD Astro Comm'l Complex Roxas Blvd. cor Libertad St., Pasay City (near the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Asian Institute of Maritime Studies) • DELA ROSA ST., MAKATI (at the back of Enterprise Tower) • J.P. RIZAL, MAKATI (near PRC and McDonald's) 898-3331 • LEGASPI ST., MAKATI Garden Floor, LPL Towers, 112 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (in front of Greenbelt 1, beside Hot Shots) • GUADALUPE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX MRT Station Level (near Foodcourt) • PATEROS M. Almeda St. cor. Morcillo St. (beside Mercury) • ANTIPOLO BAYAN #5 A. Bonifacio St., Antipolo City (in front of Pharma Shoppe) 630-3543 • FIESTA WORLD, LIPA (Ground floor, Bldg. C, in front of AOWA) Bgy. Marawoy, Lipa City • TACLOBAN (Zamora St., beside ACA Video)) 053-3254719 • GAISANO CITY-BACOLOD (Lower Ground Level) • LA SALLE - BACOLOD, Bacolod Carmel Arcade , La Salle Ave., Bacolod City (near ACA Video) • ARANETA ST., BACOLOD Door 1 Correa Building, Araneta St. cor. Rosario St., Bacolod City (in front of Lopue's Dept. Store) • BURGOS ST., BACOLOD RML Bldg., Burgos St., Bacolod City (near YMCA) • PEARL PLAZA PARAÑAQUE -#0165 Quirino Avenue, Tambo, Parañaque City (Uniwide entrance) • BETTER LIVING, PARAÑAQUE (Doña Soledad Ave., beside ACA Video and FIX-IT) • TUNASAN, MUNTINLUPA National Highway across St. Peregrine Church • BAYANAN, MUNTINLUPA 232 Doña Isabel Bldg., Bayanan, Muntinlupa (beside Mercury Drug Store) • IMUS 116 Nueno St., Imus, Cavite (beside ACA Video) 046-9700662 • ESSEL SUPERMARKET-ANGELES (Ground Floor, beside BPI) • NEPO MALL-ANGELES (2nd floor entrance, near LBC) • ABANAO SQUARE, BAGUIO 2/F Abanao Square, Abanao St. cor. 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Controls over SIM cards pushed

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission (NTC) favors the regulation of the sale of subscriber identity module (SIM) cards for mobile phones to deter crime and to generate revenues.

NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento gave NTC's support to the proposed regulation of SIM card sales during a recent hearing conducted by the House committee on transportation and communication chaired by Rep. Jacinto Paras of Negros Oriental.

Sarmiento recalled that as early as 2000 when SIM card subscribers numbered only around three million, the NTC issued a memorandum requiring the identification of prepaid SIM card users in response to complaints of indecent text and voice messages.

But NTC's memorandum was contested by telecommunications companies which questioned the NTC authority to issue it.

One of the points raised by the telecom companies was the "administrative nightmare" of coming up with a list identifying the SIM card users.

Sarmiento noted that the number of SIM card subscribers has reached nearly 20 million, making the need to regulate their sale more urgent.

During the hearing, the committee on transportation and communications moved a step closer to approving the proposal by agreeing to consolidate all bills relative to the sale of SIM cards.

The proposal is embodied in House Bills 150, 3387 and 3340 filed respectively by Reps. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo (Aurora), Narciso Monfort (Iloilo) and Reylina Nicolas (Bulacan).

Angara-Castillo said the regulation of the sale of SIM packs would help the Bureau of Internal Revenue monitor, assess and collect the appropriate taxes for the transaction.

She said that cellular phone dealers and sellers have managed to avoid payment of proper taxes, thus, depriving the government of much-needed revenues.

To correct this, Angara-Castillo said, sellers should be asked to file with the BIR an official record or document containing the full name and address of the buyer, cellular number of the SIM card, and value or amount of the SIM card.

Nicolas and Monfort proposed that telecommunications companies be required to maintain a record of the buyers of the prepaid SIM cards as an anti-crime measure.

"When technology is abused and misused, like a firearm, access to such must be controlled. It is our duty to make life harder for criminals," Nicolas said.

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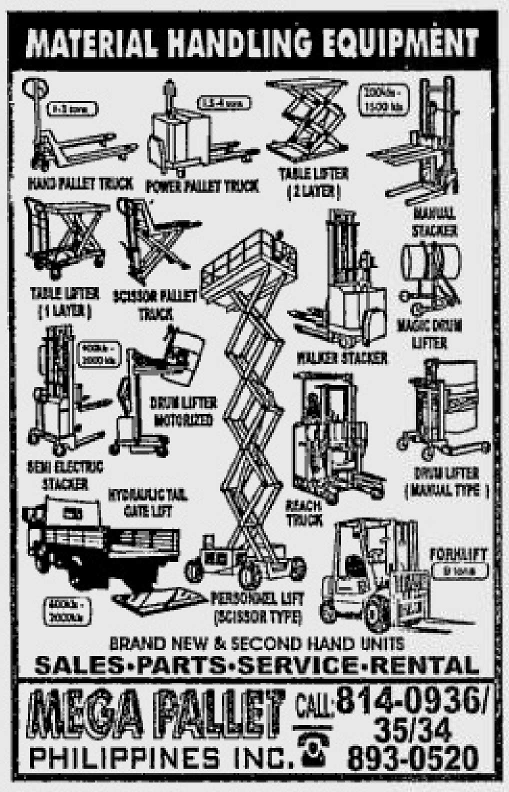
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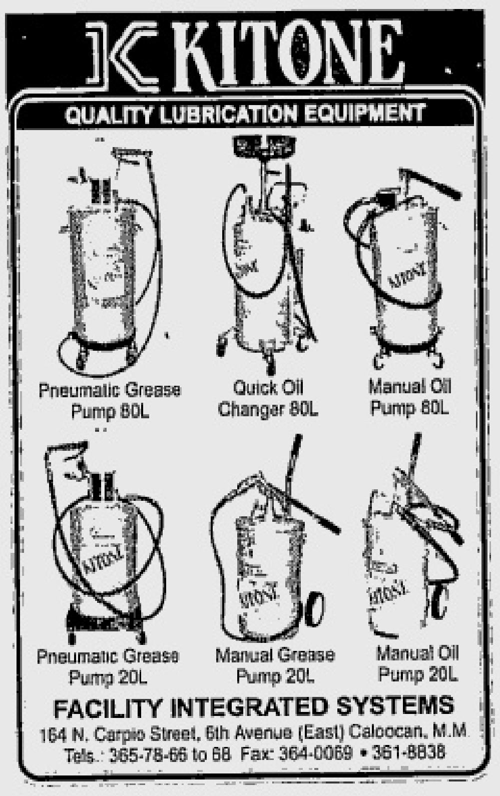
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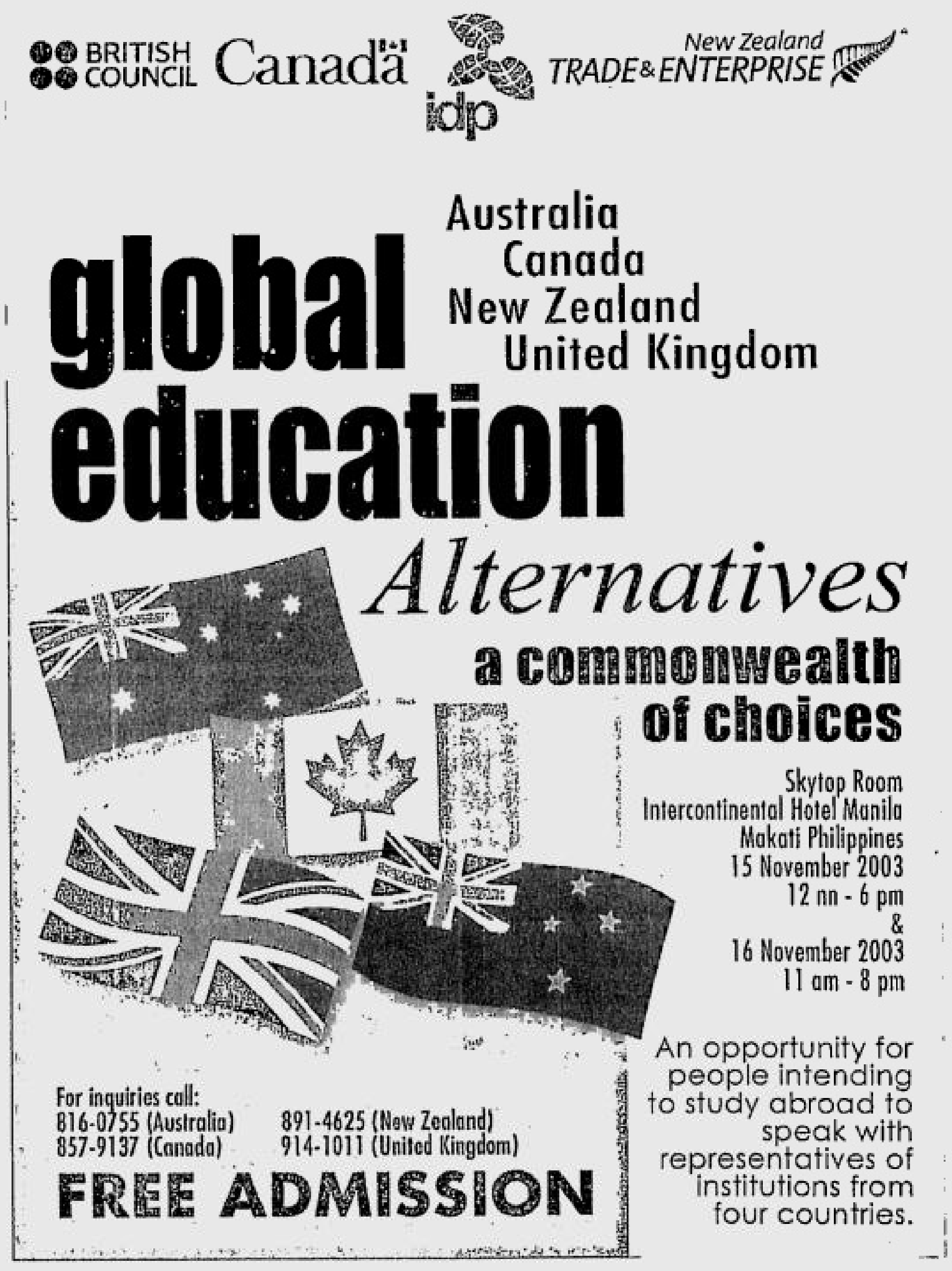
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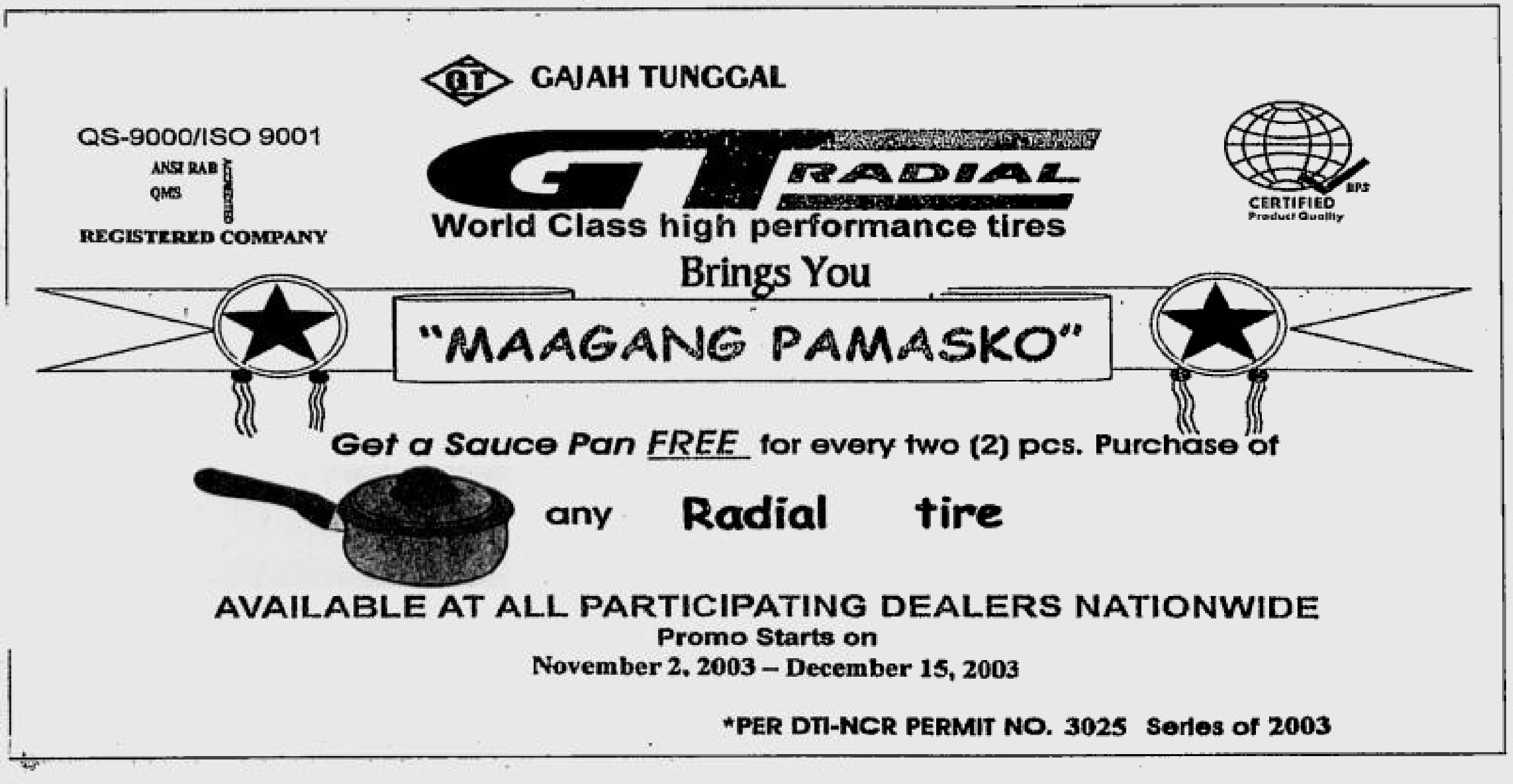
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'Tis NPA that is fishers' bane, says top cop

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE National Police Maritime Group denied yesterday it was protecting the interests of big fishpond owners in Bulacan and Pampanga as alleged by the New People's Army which raided the group's detachment in Hagonoy on Thursday night.

Senior Supt. Romulo Maningding, chief of the Maritime Group's National Capital Region command, told the INQUIRER yesterday it was the NPA that was involved in extortion activities in the two provinces.

Maningding was reacting to an NPA statement the other day which accused the maritime command of "protecting the interests of big fishpond owners in the area to the detriment of poor small fishermen."

"We vehemently deny the NPA's statement that the maritime command protects the interests of big fishpond owners to detriment of small owners. Republic Act 8550 is tasked to protect small fishermen and the maritime group is mandated to follow and implement this law," Maningding said.

He said it was "common knowledge the NPA is the protector of illegal activities in the area and is involved in extortion of fishpond owners for so-called revolutionary taxes."

Maningding also said the maritime group has acted on numerous complaints against dynamite fishing in the area.

This, he said, was the probable reason for the NPA raid on their Hagonoy [Bulacan] detachment. "Our intensive campaign against dynamite-fishing and other illegal activities has upset a lot of people. This is their way of getting back at [us]."

He also denied reports the NPA raid happened because of poor security at the detachment.

Quoting reports, Maningding said the seven rebels who assaulted the detachment arrived looking for Chief Insp. Miguel Atienza, the station commander. They identified themselves as police reinforcements.

When SPO3 Leonardo Paulino, one of those who died in the raid, asked for identification, the seven pointed their guns at the policemen.

"The suspects said they just wanted to get all the guns in the detachment," Maningding said.

But PO3 Dominador Perlas was able to fire at the rebels, killing one of them. The three other policemen present then drew their guns and a three-minute gunfight ensued, Maningding said.

"This was not a case of incompetence or lapses on the part of our men because there was a firefight," he said.

According to Maningding, the maritime group has filed 53 criminal cases against suspects caught violating RA 8550 in Bulacan and Pampanga.

Pinoy illegals fleeing S. Korea

SOME 1,000 undocumented Filipino workers in South Korea are expected to arrive in the Philippines by Nov. 15 after they failed to take advantage of an amnesty for illegal foreign workers in that country.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration chief Rosalinda Baldoz said the Filipino workers would be leaving South Korea before they could be arrested and deported.

On the other hand, around 16,000 Filipino workers availed themselves of the amnesty, which was provided for in the Act on the Employment of Foreign Workers which allowed undocumented foreign workers to come out and register so they could obtain employment permits.

The amnesty targeted between 70,000 and 80,000 illegal foreign workers in South Korea. The amnesty ended on Oct. 31.

The South Korean government has given illegals who failed to register under the amnesty up to Nov. 15 to leave the country or face fines and imprisonment.

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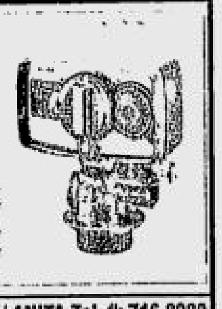

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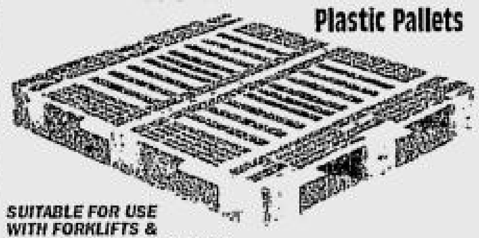

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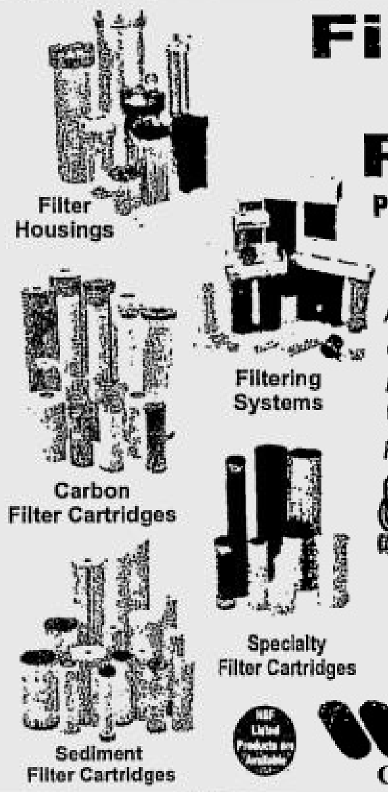

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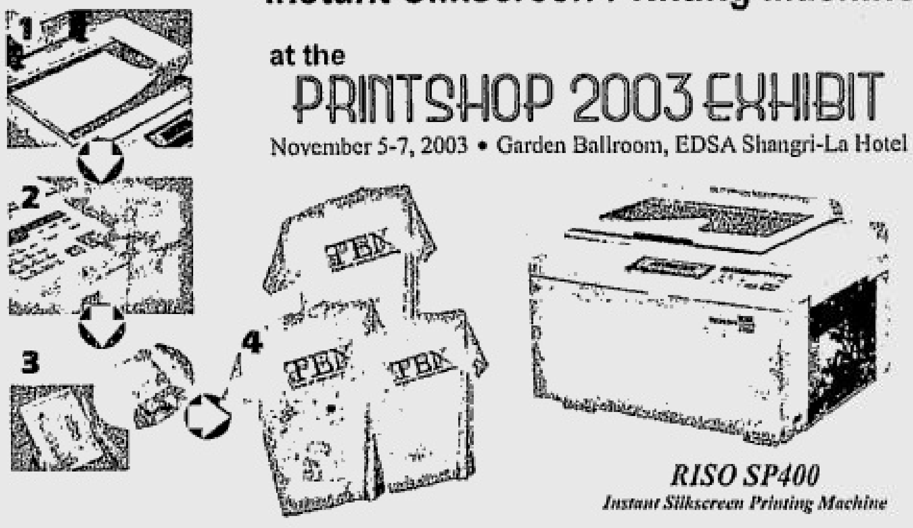

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Poll shows Bush losing support for war effort

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush is losing public support for his war and economic policies, according to a new poll which for the first time shows that a majority of Americans disapprove of his handling of Iraq.

A slim majority, 51 percent, disapprove of his handling of Iraq, while 47 percent approve, according to the ABC News-Washington Post poll released Sunday.

Fewer than one in 10 Americans say Bush has made the nation more prosperous, while 58 percent—a new high—say the president fails to understand their problems.

The economy remains a major issue, with 45 percent of Americans approving of the way Bush is handling the economy and 53 percent disapproving. By a wide margin, 62 percent to 35 percent, the public sees the economy as a more pressing problem than terrorism.

Most Americans, 54 percent, continue to believe the war was worth fighting, but that's down from 70 percent in April. A new high—62 percent—say the level of US casualties is unacceptable. The poll was conducted by telephone Oct. 26-29 and has an overall margin of error of 3 percentage points. *AP*

US helicopter shot down in Iraq

From page A1

A US spokesperson said two Chinooks had been heading for Baghdad airport when one was "shot down by an unknown weapon".

A witness in Falluja, Dawoud Suleiman, said: "There were two American helicopters. They fired a missile at one and missed, and then they hit the other, which crashed and caught fire."

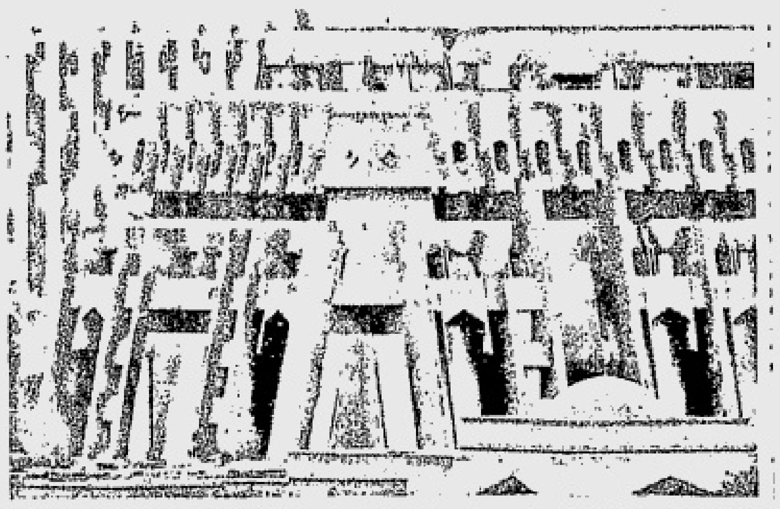
Before the helicopter attack, 123 US soldiers had died in hostilities in Iraq in the past six months, including one killed by an overnight roadside bomb blast in Baghdad and two killed by a bomb in the northern city of Mosul the day before.

Upsurge in violence

Rocket and bomb attacks have killed 12 US soldiers in an eight-day upsurge in violence that began when guerrillas rocketed a Baghdad hotel where US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was staying last Sunday.

The next day four suicide attacks killed 35 people at the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross and three police stations.

The attacks prompted the United Nations, the ICRC and other aid agencies to pull more foreign staff from Baghdad and review their operations, in a fresh blow to reconstruction efforts, although the US military commander in Iraq plays them down.



FOR THE THIRD time since Bush declared major combat over in Iraq on May 1, anti-US forces brought down a Chinook helicopter on Sunday. REUTERS

"The coalition has maintained its offensive focus in the face of what we regard as a strategically and operationally insignificant surge of attacks," Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez told a news briefing on Saturday.

In Falluja, residents said a roadside bomb had hit a convoy of US personnel in civilian vehicles. At least one vehicle was ablaze at the scene, where gloating crowds shouted anti-US slogans. Television pictures showed a gleeful youth wearing a US Army helmet. Others danced on wreckage.

In Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, residents said a roadside bomb had exploded as a US convoy passed, hitting a bus carrying university students and wounding two women.

Iraq's six neighbors, plus Egypt, held security talks in Damascus, mindful of US assertions that Syria and Iran were not doing enough to prevent militants crossing into Iraq.

In a statement, they condemned "terrorist" attacks on "civilians, humanitarian and religious institutions, embassies and international organizations" and vowed to cooperate with Iraqi authorities to "prevent any violation of borders."

Iraq's interim foreign minister, Hoshiyar Zebari, had turned down a belated invitation to attend. Officials at his ministry said Syria had been loathed to ask him because of misgivings about being seen to recognize Iraq's US-backed interim government.

US troops and Iraqi police had tightened security in Baghdad and other cities over the weekend in response to rumors that guerrillas planned another series of bombings.

Many fearful parents kept their children out of schools for a second day. The deputy headmistress of the Baghdad Middle School for Girls said only a fifth of 750 pupils had turned up.

"They're staying away because they're afraid of explosions.

We've tried to assure parents that it's safe," she said. *Reuters*

Report says US not our only friend

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE UNITED States may be the strongest military ally the Philippines could ever have, but the country needs to forge alliances with its neighbors so it would not have to depend too heavily on the US for its defense.

This according to a report by the commission overseeing the implementation of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) which regulates the conduct of joint military trainings between the two countries.

"It is high time to forge similar agreements of cooperation with other friendly countries to wean us away from dependency on the Americans," said the VFA Commission (VFACom) report that was presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo last week.

"The US is a great ally but like any country, or individual for that matter, its attitudes and the kind of respect with which it treats its friends and allies depend on many factors," the VFACom said.

It noted that the joint military exercises with the US under the VFA now "seem to follow the biases of the American planners for the kind of war that will confront their troops and for which their forces have been designated.

"It follows that the US forces gain more from the training and exercises undertaken than their Filipino counterparts," the report said.

The VFACom said the joint military exercises should benefit the Philippines since the activities are conducted on Philippine soil.

The commission said the country should prepare for the long-term development and defense of the Asia Pacific region by forging agreements with other countries similar to its Mutual Defense Treaty and the VFA with the United States.

It said the Philippines could explore bilateral assistance pacts with Singapore for the training of air force pilots, and Indonesia for securing sea lanes. It also proposed similar cooperation agreements with regional military powers like India, Russia and China.

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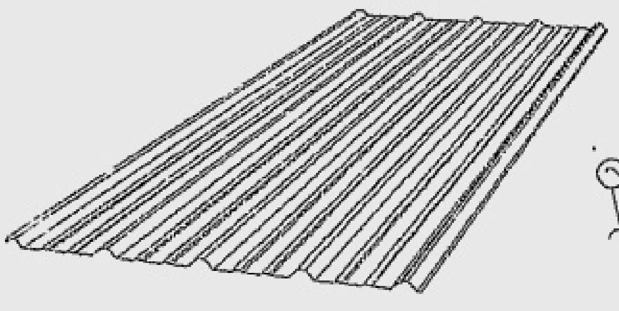

Figure 1

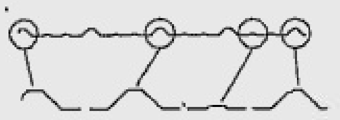

Figure 2

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QUEZON CITY	#7 CCC COMPOUND SEMINARY ROAD, BAHAY TORO, QUEZON CITY	A total aggregate area of 570.00 sqm industrial/ commercial lot with a total floor area of 400.00 sqm. single lofty warehouse, covered by TCT Nos.233907, 233908 and 233909	PHP 10,000,000.00
LAS PINAS CITY	INTERIOR SAINT ANDREW ST. IBAYO NGNAGA, PULANG LUPA DOS, LAS PINAS CITY	942.00 sqm residential lot with various concrete improvements erected thereon covered by TCT No. T-84490	PHP 5,000,000.00
PARANAQUE CITY	BALARAO ST AIRPORT VILLAGE BRGY. MOONWALK, PARANAQUE CITY	303.00 sqm 7-units two (2) storey row type townhouse (60% complete) with a total area of 450.84 sqm. Near Dona Soledad Ave. covered by TCT No. 57547	PHP 3,400,000.00
MANILA	#3585 SANDEJAS ST. BRGY 720 ZONE 78, MALATE MANILA	155.40 sqm. residential lot with a total floor area of 128.14 sqm. single storey improvement covered by TCT No 196217	PHP 3,000,000.00
CAVITE	LOT 7 & 8 BLK 5 BAYHILL DRIVE MANILA SOUTHWOODS, PH-IV CABILANG BAYBAY CARMONA, CAVITE	Two adjoining vacant/ residential lot with an aggregate area of 856 m2 covered by TCT No. T-644834 and T-644835	PHP 5,848,000.00
	BRGY KAYBAGAL, SAMBONG TAGAYTAY CITY	48,838.00 sqm vacant agricultural lot covered by OCT No. OP-792	PHP 4,900,000.00
	LOT 24 BLK 28 BRGY. SAN NICOLAS BACOOR CAVITE	400.00 sqm vacant parcel of land covered by TCT No. T-950036	PHP 1,000,000.00
BULACAN	LOT 14 BLOCK 18 PEARL STREET BULACAN HEIGHTS, BGY. PULONG BUHANGIN, STA. MARIA, BULACAN	160 m2 residential / vacant lot covered by TCT No T-284797 (M)	PHP 340,000.00
	ROADLOT 7,8,2 AND 5 Blk 5 GOLDEN VILLAGE BGY MATIMBUBONG, CAGAYAN VALLEY ROAD, SAN ILDEFONSO, BULACAN	24 parcels of residential lots with an aggregate land area of 3,281 m2 and covered by TCT No. T-90476 to T-90498	PHP 4,920,000.00
	CAGAYAN VALLEY RD COR ROADLOT 2 BO. BANGA 1ST PLARIDEL BULACAN	5 parcels of land with improvement and has an aggregate land area of 935 m5 covered by TCT No.T-180774; T-180776 to T-180780	PHP 18,200,000.00
	MUNICIPAL ROAD BO LONGOS PULILAN BULACAN	5,231 residential lot with improvement and covered by TCT No TC-2775	PHP 9,500,000.00
RIZAL	TUASON STREET VALLEY GOLF SUBD., BRGY NAGPATONG, CAINTA, RIZAL	1,922.00 sqm vacant parcel of land covered by TCT No. N-75002.	PHP 8,000,000.00
BATAAN	LOT 24 BLK 3 THE STRAND NAGBALAYONG, MORONG, BATAAN	Vacant parcel of land with an area of 581.00 sqm lies within a residential area of Morong, Bataan covered by TCT No. 173048	PHP 2,030,000.00

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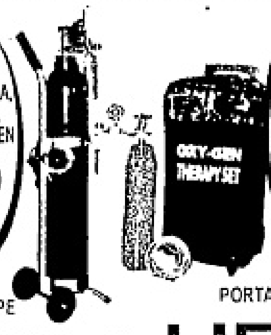
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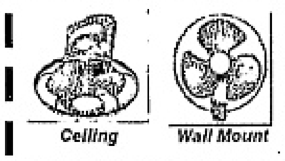

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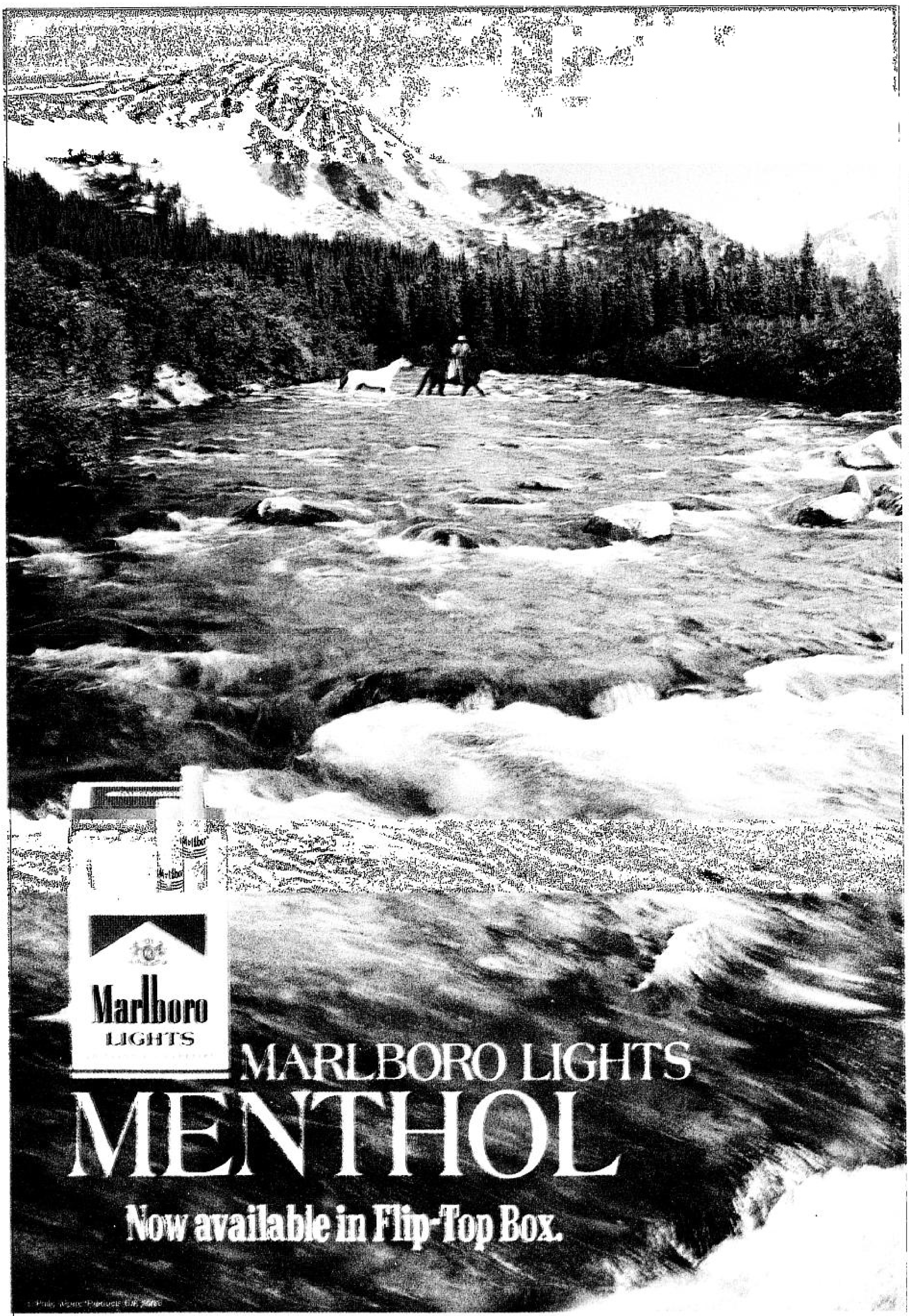

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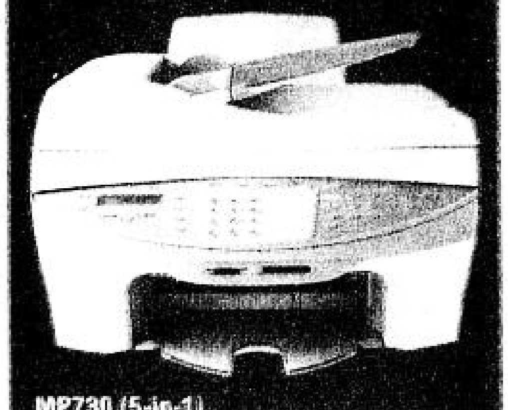
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Palestinian premier ready to talk peace with Sharon

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie said on Saturday he was willing to take up Israeli leader Ariel Sharon's offer to meet for talks on reviving a US-backed peace plan battered by violence.

Signaling an apparent softening in Israel's position, Sharon said on Thursday he was ready to negotiate with Qurie once the Palestinian prime minister had consolidated his position.

Qurie is locked in a dispute with President Yasser Arafat over the composition of the cabinet and security powers and is trying to form a government to replace an emergency cabinet whose 30-day term expires on Tuesday.

Qurie said no date had been set for a meeting. But asked about the possibility that he would hold talks with the right-wing Israeli prime minister, he told reporters: "We are not against (it)."

After Arafat nominated Qurie as prime minister in September, Israel suggested it would not deal with him because it saw him as Arafat's lackey. Israel says Arafat incites militant attacks on Israelis, a charge he denies.

Qurie came in for praise as a man of peace from Israeli opposition Labor Party leader Shimon Peres who addressed a memorial ceremony for assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the eighth anniversary of his death.

Packing a main square in Tel Aviv, some 100,000 Israelis listened to songs and speeches recalling the heady days of peacemaking a decade ago as they honored Rabin.

"He (Qurie) believes terrorism must be stopped for the good of the Palestinians, that peace must be achieved and compromises made," Peres said in the square where Rabin was shot by an ultranationalist Jew opposed to his peace efforts.

"He is a man of deeds, someone with whom it is possible to hold a serious dialogue," Peres, Israel's leading dove, said about Qurie at the ceremony, where left-wing groups raised banners demanding that Israel withdraw from occupied land.

It was anyone's guess whether the larger-than-usual crowd at the annual ceremony was a protest at the daubing of swastikas on a Rabin monument at the site on Friday or the resurgence of an Israeli "peace camp" deflated by three years of violence.

In the latest bloodshed, Israeli forces shot and killed two Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian security officials said.

Persistent violence during the Palestinian uprising and the failure of both sides to meet key commitments have stalled the peace "road map" the United States, European Union, Russia and the United Nations presented in April.

The plan calls for an end to bloodshed and the start of confidence-building measures, such as a Palestinian crackdown on militants and a freeze in Jewish settlement expansion, leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state by 2005. *Reuters*

AN ISRAELI woman holds a candle during a memorial ceremony marking the eighth anniversary of the assassination of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv Nov. 1. Tens of thousands of Israelis gathered Saturday night to mark the event, showing their continued support for the stalled peace process. REUTERS

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Nature helps control fires in California

LOS ANGELES—Weary firefighters endured welcome rain, snow, and near freezing temperatures in the mountains of Southern California on Saturday, as Mother Nature drenched wildfires raging for more than a week and gave hope the devastating blazes could be contained early next week.

"This is the day we didn't believe we would ever see," said Andrea Tuttle, Director of the California Department of Forestry. "We don't have any more hot flames anywhere."

Temperatures have plummeted by some 60 degrees Fahrenheit in the last two days, from around 90 degrees (32 Celsius) to 30 degrees (-1 Celsius), and heavy rains and snow that arrived on Friday night and carried through into Saturday morning proved a boon to fire crews.

Mike McGroarty, deputy chief of fire operations for California's Office of Emergency Services, said, "The weather has been very, very good to us over the last 24 hours. It looks like (Southern California) is going to have some really good humidity over the next several days," he told reporters. He said the fires, which killed 20 people, destroyed more than 3,000 homes and forced tens of thousands to evacuate, had "pretty much slowed and in some cases have stopped."

Confident the tide had turned in their favor, authorities started releasing fire crews from the front lines and sending them home on Saturday. Officials said firefighters from Las Vegas, relaxing after 16-hour days battling the flames, had handed out candy to trick or treaters on Friday night in the San Diego County community of Ramona.

The dramatic weather shift could mean the fires will be contained about three days sooner than anticipated. While officials reported on Friday the six fires still burning were at least 25 percent contained, the picture on Saturday was much brighter, prompting cautious optimism all the blazes would be fully contained by Monday night.

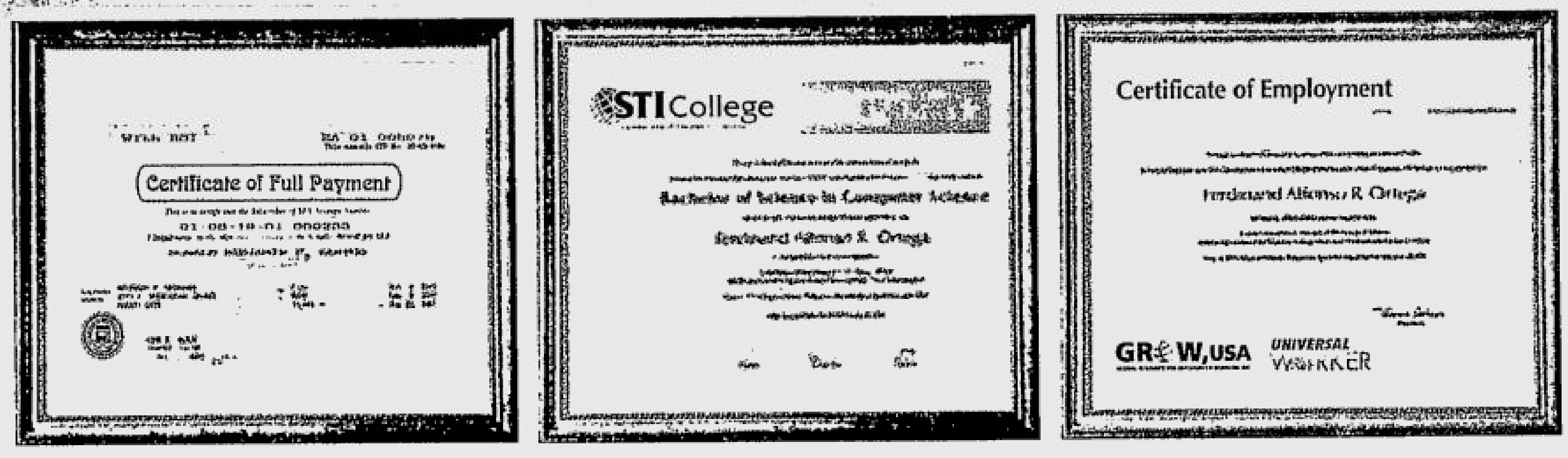
The Cedar Fire, by far the most devastating, killing 14 people, destroying 2,207 homes and charring 110,000 hectares in the mountains near San Diego, was 81 percent contained and expected to be fully contained by Monday night, two days earlier than previously expected.

"We are looking much better than we were," an official at the Cedar Fire said. He tempered his optimism, though, noting the weather conditions were "a double-edged sword" that could also produce high winds to breathe new life into the fires.

The Paradise Fire, also in San Diego, was 60 percent contained, while the Old Fire, in San Bernardino County, was 45 percent contained. The Simi Fire, on the outskirts of Los Angeles, was expected to be fully contained by Saturday night.

More rain and snow was forecast for Saturday night.

The more than 100,000 residents who fled their homes over the past week trickled back into areas charred by the 10 major fires to see if their homes were among the more than 3,334 destroyed in the record 300,000 hectare fires. *Reuters*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Confidence in Russia drops after Yukos oil row

MOSCOW—A few weeks ago, Russia seemed on an unstoppable roll as investors flocked to one of the world's fastest-growing economies, but a sudden escalation of the state's conflict with oil giant Yukos has jolted confidence.

President Vladimir Putin prided himself on bringing stability after the chaotic post-Soviet era, as his administration attracted Western capital and incited Russians to repatriate funds stashed abroad.

Now in its fourth year of consecutive growth, Russia's gross domestic product expanded 6.5 percent in the first nine months of 2003, almost on a par with China.

But the spectacle of prosecutors going after the country's largest oil group, jailing its chief executive on fraud charges and freezing nearly half its shares has provoked deep unease in business circles.

"We believe that the notion of political stability, one of the cornerstones of the Russian investment case over the past few years, has been dealt a substantial if not lasting blow," the Aton brokerage warned in a research note.

Yukos, considered the first Russian company to gain an international reputation for transparency and good corporate governance, is in the final stages of a merger with rival Sibneft that would create the world's fourth-largest private oil and gas producer.

In a measure of alarm at the investor fallout, Putin met with the heads of top Russian and Western investment banks Thursday shortly after prosecutors impounded a 44-percent stake in Yukos owned by chief executive Mikhail Khodorkovsky and his allies.

Although Putin assured them the prosecution of Khodorkovsky, the second major Yukos shareholder to be jailed since July, was an "isolated event," he also said Russian authorities would pursue other businessmen who had broken the law.

A RUSSIAN artist performs with hoops during a cultural show called "Days of Russian Culture in India" in New Delhi late Nov. 1. REUTERS

This only renewed fears of a broader campaign against the "oligarchs," the club of billionaire Russian moguls who built up fortunes virtually overnight in the 1990s by snapping up state companies for bargain prices in disputed conditions.

"The accusations against the head of Yukos ... can be made against any Russian businessman," the Vedomosti business daily said Friday. "This means the shares of any company can be impounded by the prosecutors. And maybe nationalized."

Foreign investors are not expected to desert Russia—the second-largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia—which has become a magnet for Western majors looking to replenish dwindling reserves, but deals are already being delayed.

The Financial Times reported that US oil giants Exxon Mobil and Chevron Texaco had halted talks on the purchase of a major stake in Yukos Sibneft after Khodorkovsky's arrest.

The British business daily also reported that French food giant Danone had postponed its planned $900-million takeover of Russian dairy products group Will-Bill-Dann.

British oil giant BP, which sank $7.7 billion into a joint venture with Russian oil producer TNK this year, shrugged off the Yukos crisis however and insisted it was in Russia "for the long term."

And Moody's, which this month upgraded Russia's credit rating to investment grade, citing strong economic growth on the back of high world oil prices and responsible financial policy that has seen bank reserves swell and foreign debt paid down, reaffirmed its decision on Friday.

But a greater risk is that massive capital flight will resume, starving the Russian economy of domestic investment which has been a vital engine of growth in recent years.

For the first time since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia recorded a net capital inflow of $2.3 billion in the second quarter of this year. In the third quarter, an estimated $ 7 billion fled the country.

"This is not only about foreign oil interests, it's about Russian money coming back or not coming back. Stability and security of property rights are the key," Christof Ruehl, the World Bank's chief economist in Russia, told AFP.

"Putin's reforms were seen as successful because there was confidence and Russian companies started to repatriate their profits. The risk is that even if the government pursues reforms, the confidence will no longer be there," said Natalya Orlova, an analyst at Alfa Bank. *AFP*

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Thailand may legalize its famous sex industry

BANGKOK—Thailand is considering legalizing its famous sex industry, but human rights advocates, go-go bar owners and many of the prostitutes themselves believe the move will do nothing but line the government's pockets.

The justice ministry has announced plans to hold a "public hearing" later this month on whether or not the government should amend or repeal legislation which outlaws one of the world's biggest flesh trades.

But there are questions over whether the reforms are aimed at improving the lot of exploited sex workers, raking in a mountain of tax revenue from the multibillion-dollar industry, or protecting the overlords—many alleged to have government ties—who control the trade.

"It's nothing new to us," said Chantawipa Apisuk, director of Empower Foundation which champions the rights of Thailand's estimated 200,000 sex workers.

"The slaves, the victims, are the women, and the government thinks problems will be solved if they are legalized. But there are superpowered people making decisions above the law. Why don't we look at them?" she told AFP.

One of the major concerns is a proposal to register sex workers, a move the women fear will stigmatize them forever and prevent them from seeking work elsewhere.

"If we register, it cannot tackle bribery, cannot control owners, and profit-sharing will remain unequal. Perhaps it is just another repressive regulation against the women, because society does not accept the people in these jobs," Chantawipa said.

Chulalongkorn University professor Narong Phetprasert, a researcher for the ruling Thai Rak Thai (TRT) party of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, has proposed slashing four key articles from the existing law.

"The articles are exploitative, providing opportunities for police to take advantage of the girls," he said, explaining that one of them makes it illegal for a woman to "behave" like a prostitute.

"If we abolish those articles, they can do their profession legally ... and with fewer opportunities for police and authorities to exploit them." *AFP*

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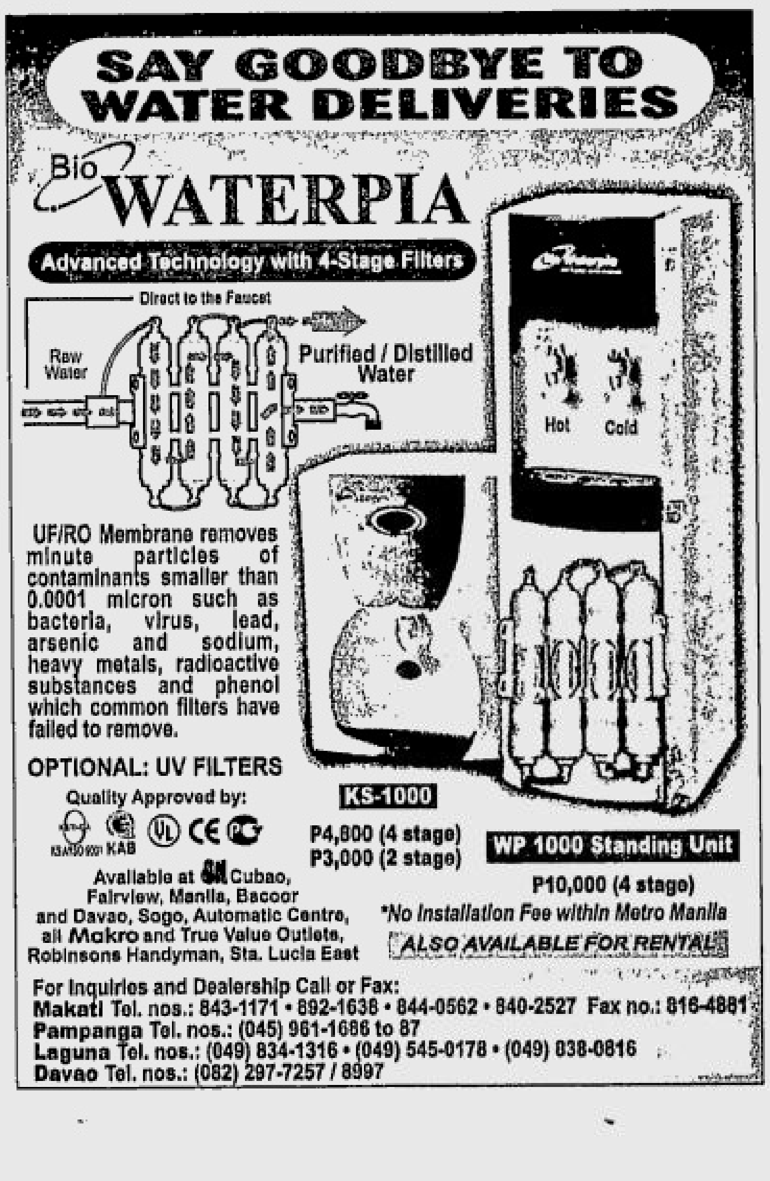

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AHEAD OF PRINCE CHARLES

Survey: Britons prefer William to be next king

LONDON—Britons are increasingly backing Prince William to inherit the throne ahead of his father Prince Charles, according to a series of polls published Sunday.

A total 39 percent of respondents agreed that William, second in line to the throne, should succeed Queen Elizabeth II as Britain's next monarch, up 11 points since last year, a YouGov poll showed.

Those backing heir to the throne Charles to be the next king also stood at 39 percent, but represented a fall of nine points on a year ago, according to the survey published in The Mail on Sunday weekly tabloid.

The number in favor of Charles is in line with a separate survey of young Britons published Sunday, which showed that 38 percent of 16- to 24-year-old respondents wish to see him succeed the queen.

But young Britons overwhelmingly prefer William as the next monarch—60 percent according to an ICM survey.

The telephone poll of 502 young Britons was carried out last Wednesday and Thursday after the publication of a book by Princess Diana's former butler, Paul Burrell, which heavily criticizes the royal family's treatment of William's mother while she was alive.

According to the ICM survey, 88 percent of young Britons believe William sets a "good example" on how to live, compared with 69 percent who say the same is true of the queen and 55 percent of Charles.

Both royal polls were published just months after a leading British think tank, the Fabian Society, said the monarchy needed a radical shake-up to survive.

In the YouGov poll of just over 2,000 British adults, half of respondents said the monarchy should be retained only if reformed, up nine points from last year, while 21 percent said it should be abolished, a rise of three points.

Meanwhile, a quarter of young Britons predict that the monarchy will be dead within a decade, while 82 percent agreed that the royal family is "over-privileged" and 75 percent said it is "out of touch with ordinary people".

On a positive note for the royals, 81 percent of 16- to 24-year-old think they are good for tourism, 79 percent for charities and 71 percent said they give Britain prestige abroad.

Prince Charles spent Saturday reveling in former royal splendor Indian-style; visiting ancient palaces and meeting Indian ex-royalty in Jaipur, capital of the western desert state of Rajasthan.

He arrived there late Friday and was accorded a royal welcome by the Maharani (queen) of Jaipur Gayatri Devi and Brigadier Bhawani Singh, former nobles from this state where princes ruled provinces for decades before the practice was scrapped in 1969.

Charles is on his first visit to India since a disastrous six-day trip in February 1992 with his then wife, the late Diana Princess of Wales. They divorced 10 months later.

His trip comes after publication of the tell-all book by Burrell, which has put the late princess back on the front pages of newspapers here.

Diana died in a car crash in Paris in 1997. *AFP*

UNWANTED? Britain's Prince Charles greets artists at a reception given by the royal family of Jaipur in Jaipur, India, Saturday, Nov. 1. Prince Charles is on a-nine-day visit to India with an eye on business wildlife conservation and enhancing relations between India and Britain. AP

Cell phone explodes in Thai's hand

BANGKOK—A Thai man narrowly escaped serious injury wh en his mobile phone exploded in his hand, blasting through its leather cover and shattering into pieces.

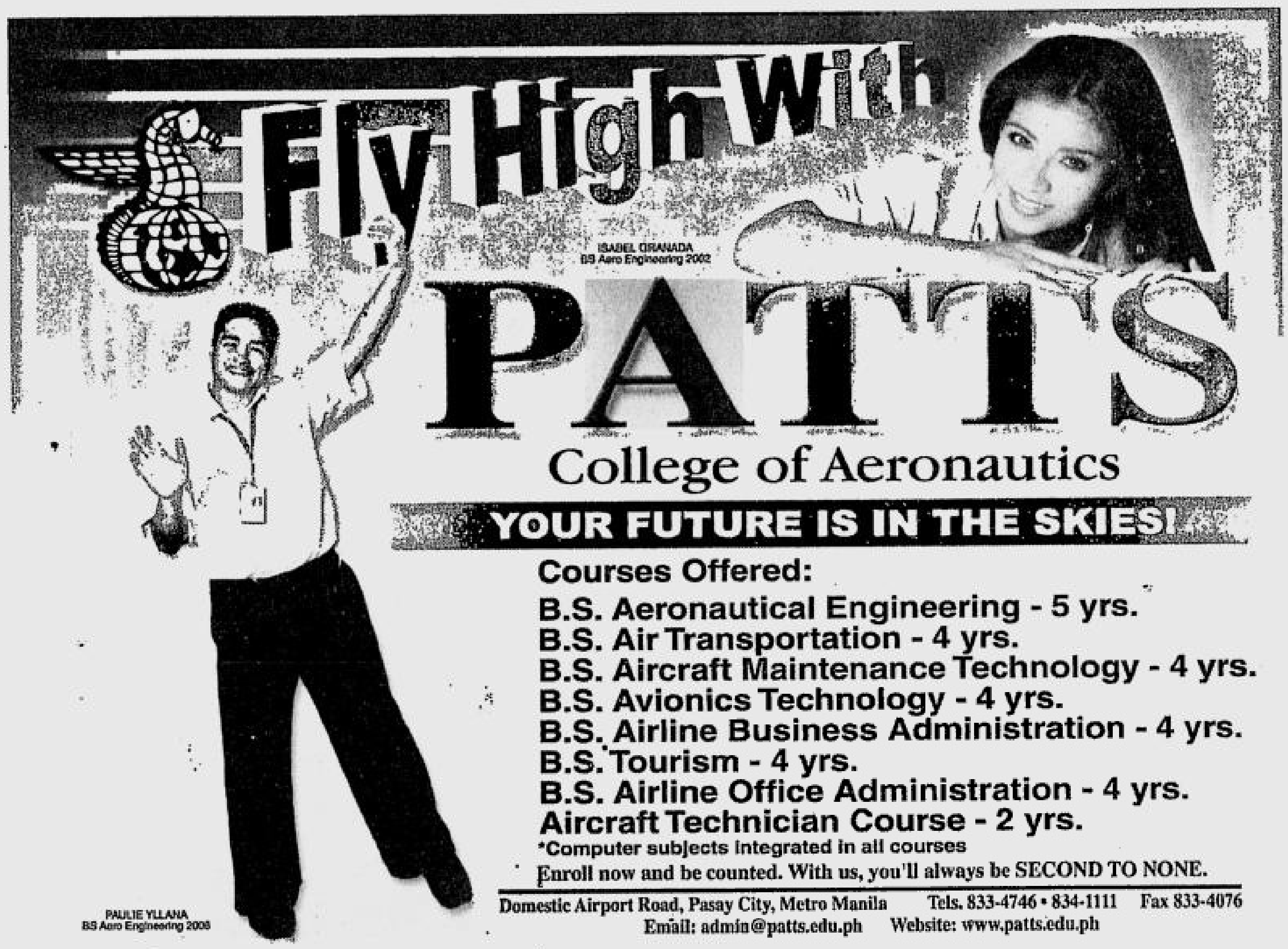
Wichai Thongwiangchan said he removed the Nokia phone from his belt Saturday to find it had switched itself off, and when he tried to turn it on again it blasted into fragments that spread over a three-meter area.

"My hand would have been more seriously harmed without the leather cover on the phone. If I had been using it my ear would have been burnt," he told The Nation newspaper.

Wichai said he suspected the blast was caused by the battery, which was branded as Nokia equipment but bought at a cut-price rate from a Bangkok mobile phone shop and possibly a fake.

He speculated that it could also have been linked with a remote-control unit controlling his front gate which he was using at the time of the explosion.

Wichai's family told AFP that he had sustained minor injuries to his left wrist but was not going to file a complaint with the manufacturer or police. *AFP*



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Heir to Spanish throne to wed divorced reporter

MADRID—Prince Felipe, heir to the throne of Spain, will marry divorced Spanish television journalist Letizia Ortiz Rocasolano next summer, the royal palace said in a surprise announcement Saturday.

The 35-year-old prince, son of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, will on Thursday officially propose to the 31-year-old current affairs presenter of public television channel TVE at the palace.

"The marriage will take place at the start of summer 2004 at Almudena Cathedral in Madrid," an official communique announced, a day before the queen's 65th birthday.

Ortiz, who also worked for the conservative newspaper ABC and the CNN plus television channel, had married one of her former teachers in 1999 but divorced a year later.

ROCASOLANO AFP

Since no church wedding was held at the time, the Roman Catholic Church was not expected to oppose her remarrying.

The announcement was eagerly welcomed by most of Spain's political groupings, both on the left and right-wing.

The role of Prince Felipe, the royal couple's third child and only son, is not defined in Spain's constitution but mostly involves officially representing the royal household both in Spain and abroad.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia have also voiced satisfaction at the match, saying that Ortiz "reconciles the necessary conditions" to share their son's responsibilities, according to a spokesperson for the royal household.

The prince has been brought up to assume the continuity of the Spanish monarchy, reestablished in November 1975 when his father acceded to the throne two days after the death of dictator Francisco Franco.

He has had several romantic relationships in the past on which the royal house has always maintained a stubborn silence. The last serious one was with a Norwegian model, Eva Sannum.

The relationship, which according to the press lasted four years, ended in December 2001 and was never officially recognized by the Spanish royal household.

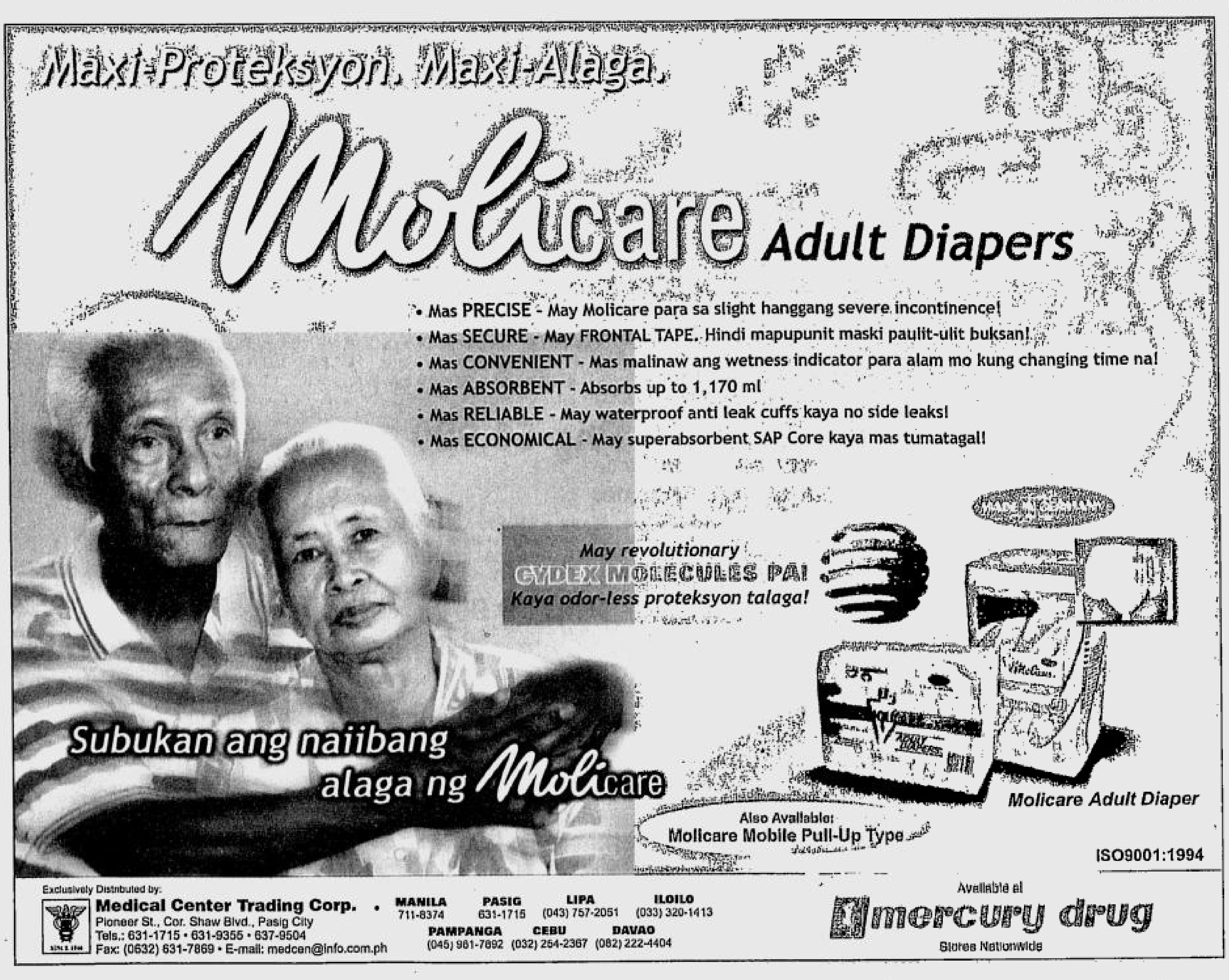
It was criticized by Spanish monarchists opposed to a marriage between the future king and a commoner who previously worked as a lingerie model.

The prince's two elder sisters, princesses Elena and Cristina, are married to Jaime de Marichalar and former international handball star, Inaki Urdangarin, respectively. Neither of the men are members of the aristocracy.

Felipe, born in January 1968, has steadily increased his public duties since the age of 8 in preparation for one day taking over as king of Spain.

He often represents his country at the initiation ceremonies for heads of state or government in Latin America and regularly carries out official trips abroad and in Spain.

He was described in the German press earlier in the year during a visit to Berlin for talks with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder as "Europe's most attractive bachelor." *AFP*



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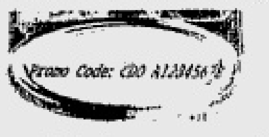

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```
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```
CDO B12345678
```

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```
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CDO C12345678
```

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CDO PREMYO(to inquire about the prizes at stake)

CDO DRAWS(to inquire on the schedule of draws)

CDO(to inquire about the promo in general)

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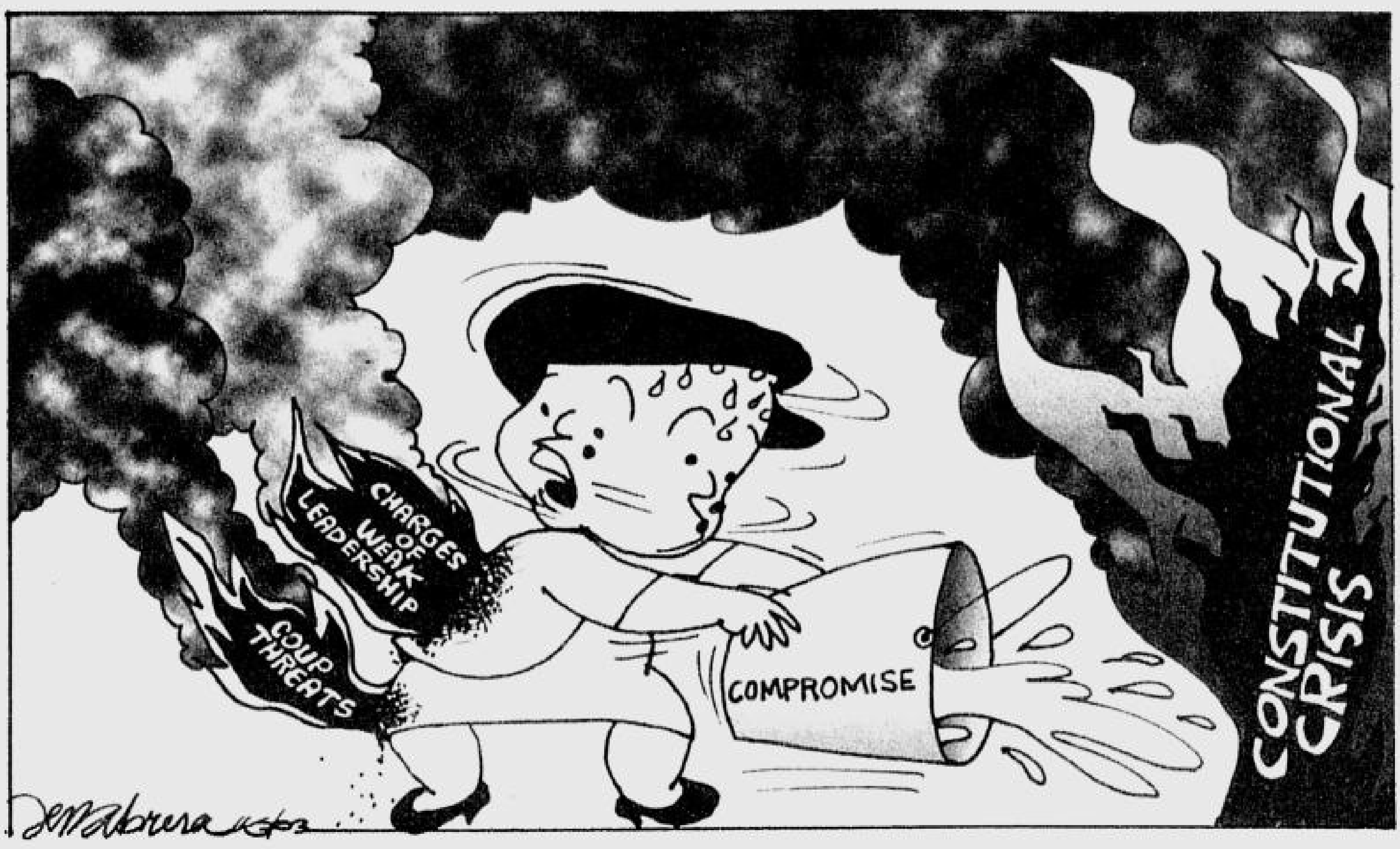


No settlement

WE support the President's initiative to bring the heads of the three branches of government together, in an attempt to find a way to end the impeachment crisis. But we draw the line at a "settlement" that will impose a political solution on a legal problem.

The public will not stand for a compromise that buys short-term peace at the price of long-term damage to the judiciary.

EDITORIAL

But this is precisely what is at stake in the procedurally flawed, politically motivated impeachment drive against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

In railroading a second impeachment complaint against Davide, even before the House committee on justice concluded its investigation, Congress committed a grave abuse of discretion, usurped the Supreme Court's power to interpret the Constitution—and, invoking wounded pride and what opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara calls "institutional integrity," pushed the country recklessly into a constitutional crisis.

On Saturday, invoking the principles of her late father, President Macapagal-Arroyo called on the House and the Supreme Court to reason together. "It is... this sense of sacrifice that I have invoked in appealing to the leaders of our legislature and our judiciary to defuse the political impasse we are facing."

The President's speechwriters have, yet again, failed the Chief Executive, mixing metaphors the way Malacañang has been mixing signals. (How does one defuse an impasse?)

But the President's all-things-to-all-men appeal is misplaced. Given the facts of the impeachment, Ms Macapagal cannot seriously suggest a compromise where the legislature and the judiciary "meet halfway." Having invaded the domain of the courts, Congress must be asked to entirely vacate the premises. Then, and only then, can the crisis of the government's great powers be resolved.

This is what Davide must have meant when he said over the weekend that the "covenant" that the President sought, and which he supported, must not be mistaken for a "settlement."

The covenant, he said, "must aim at strengthening the role of each of the three branches of government, all for the sake of our country and the preservation of our democratic institutions, and to put an end to the escalation of the crisis at hand." What it does not mean is compromising the judiciary, by forcing it to accept a political solution.

The executive and the legislature exercise their powers as political organs of government. We may like to think that a policy is executed or a law is passed with only the national interest in mind, but this is not and cannot be the case. The Constitution wisely allows for horse-trading, for including riders in legislation, for many opportunities to practice politics as the art of compromise.

But the courts of justice can exercise their powers only on the basis of facts and the law. To insinuate politics into a judicial decision is to undermine the rule of law itself. Thus, while saying he was open to the President's suggestion, Davide emphasized that the Supreme Court cannot be party to a political settlement. "I will not compromise the independence of the judiciary."

A group of young lawyers has urged the Supreme Court to take precisely this stand: to reject any overtures of a settlement, or even the appearance of one. Their reasoning is unassailable. The high court's power to settle historically divisive issues is based on the mystique of credibility, on what lawyers routinely call the majesty of the law. To accept a settlement now, or even to be perceived as giving way to one, would be fatal to the tribunal's power to persuade.

The Brat Pack may find all this talk of mystique and credibility mystifying. For children of rich and powerful families who are used to getting what they want, there is nothing mysterious about power. It comes from the accumulation of wealth, which makes everything else possible.

For the rest of us, we can only depend on the courts, whose mandate is Magsaysay-esque at best: to give more in law to those with less in life. It is for this reason that many Filipinos, from martial law victims to coconut farmers awaiting the final disposition of the controversial coco levy funds, abhor a court-compromising settlement.

Compromise will hide the truth on JDF

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ARM-TWISTING and not the search for the truth is the method being used by pro-Davide manipulators to prevent the transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate. Congressmen who signed the impeachment complaint are being pressured to withdraw their signatures so that it would not have the required 76 votes (one-third of the House of Representatives) and the complaint would then a die a natural death. But then, what happens to the truth? Did Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. misappropriate the Judiciary Development Fund? Were the court employees cheated out of their share? Was he too extravagant in the renovation of the Supreme Court building, the construction of new cottages for justices in Baguio and in the purchase of luxury vehicles for them? We will never know.

Besides, will the withdrawal of signatures mean also the withdrawal of the complaint? I don't think so. The Constitution says an impeachment complaint must have the required one-third vote of the House "at the time of filing." The complaint has been filed; that's a done deal. It cannot be recalled even if signatures are withdrawn. It is too late to withdraw them.

When a bill has been approved and signed by the majority of the members of the bicameral conference committee, that bill is approved with finality. Even if some members withdraw their signatures later, the bill stays approved. I think it is the same thing with an impeachment complaint.

In the arguments against the impeachment complaint, the "experts" dwell on legal technicalities, not on the contents of the complaint itself. The Chief Justice himself has answered these charges in the "Debate" program on GMA 7. I believe him. If he explains the same way at the impeachment trial, he would be acquitted. So who's afraid of an impeachment trial?

But Davide says he doesn't want to "surrender the independence of the judiciary" which he represents. To which the congressmen reply that it is not the judiciary that is being accused but only Davide because he is the administrator of the JDF.

Davide says the Supreme Court has "fiscal autonomy," meaning everybody else has no business looking into how it spends its money. Congressmen say it has "oversight powers" over any office of the government, including a coequal branch, especially since the JDF is the result of a law, Presidential Decree 1949. Technicalities again. And Speaker Jose de Venecia's "win-win solution" is also a technicality. The House will acknowledge the "fiscal autonomy" of the Supreme Court, and the latter will acknowledge the "oversight powers" of Congress. Then the two sides will shake hands, forget everything, go their merry way and resume what they have been doing. But the questions will remain unanswered. The people will remain in the dark. Transparency, the right of the people to information, will be sacrificed on the altar of convenience. De Venecia's "win-win solution" will be a "lose-lose" one to the public.

***

Ironically, the whole thing started with the desire of some congressmen to help the Supreme Court and give it more money. I met two members of the so-called "Brat Pack" who started the ball rolling, Rep. Michael John Duavit and Darlene Antonino-Custodio, at the birthday party of Rep. Aniceto Saludo last Saturday and what follows is what they told me:

They wanted to give salary increases to judges to make the wheels of justice move faster. Many salas are vacant because there are few applicants to judgeships. The salaries are not good enough.

But the national government cannot afford to fund the salary increases. No money. So they thought of appropriating some money to add to the JDF and then the salary increases for judges would be taken from it. But first, the congressmen need figures before they could craft the necessary legislation. So they asked the Supreme Court for these figures.

But Supreme Court officials thought the congressmen were on a fishing expedition and ordered court employees not to cooperate with the congressmen and not to give them any more documents.

During the House hearings, court employees had complained that their cost of living allowances were going down in spite of the fact that court fees have been raised and the JDF is growing. The lawmakers asked for the audited statements of the Commission on Audit. The COA said the book of accounts do not tally and that many expenses were unaccounted for. Then the Baguio cottages, luxury vehicles, P120,000 chairs, and P6 million curtains surfaced. The congressmen asked to see the book of accounts. And that triggered the explosion that is now shaking the foundations of our country.

The Chief Justice refused to cooperate (the congressmen said). In a letter to the Speaker, he said in effect: "It's none of your business!"

"We didn't want to impeach him," Duavit and Antonino-Custodio said. "But he left us no choice. Davide was arrogant. We already saw something was very wrong and we would be abdicating our duty if we just closed our eyes and let it pass." The sparring between the Supreme Court and the House took 10 months. Finally, the congressmen had enough of it.

So impeachment was the only remedy to arrive at the truth, they said. Wrong.

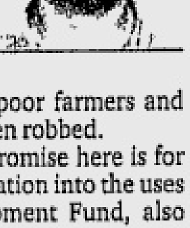
We only want to see the book of accounts, they said. But impeachment is too harsh a method to do that.

So here is a painless way out of the constitutional crisis: Why doesn't the House withdraw the impeachment complaint? In return, the Supreme Court will open its book of accounts. If everything is in order, there is nothing to be afraid of. Hide it and people will suspect there is something wrong with it.

Wimpy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo says Raul Roco is wrong. There is no crisis in leadership. The presidency, she says, is a "middle force," a "third force." "The executive shall firmly hold the middle ground in this controversy but let this never be interpreted as weakness. To be drawn wantonly to either side of this dispute will derail the chances of a principled compromise and further erode national stability."

That is all very well—if true. But not being drawn to either side of the controversy and holding firmly on to the middle ground is the last thing GMA has done. In fact, she has swung wildly from one side to the other depending on who seems to be gaining public support.

First, she took the side of those who wanted to oust Hilario Davide Jr. At the very least by tacitly going along with them, if not by actively endorsing them, as Joker Arroyo has charged. Roco has a point: GMA is the head of Lakas, apart from being the President. Jose de Venecia, who has been pushing for charter change to attain his truly impossible dream of one day ruling this country, is her chief ally. For her to not be able to prevail on her own party to head off a vicious plot by a bunch of spoiled brats in Congress, who belong to the party headed by the biggest crook in this country, to impeach Davide for apparent crookedness, that is monumental wimpiness. If she cannot lead her own party, she cannot lead the nation.

But I may be wrong about Danding Cojuangco being the biggest crook in this country. The First Couple may already have grabbed that distinction from him.

What principled compromise is GMA talking about? The only principled compromise here is for Congress to bestir itself to reopen the case of the coconut levy, which is where Cojuangco's wealth comes from. Nowhere does Balzac's famous proposition, "Behind every great wealth lies a great crime," ring more truthfully than here. As far as I know, there is no statute of limitations on the crime of extorting from dirt-poor farmers and using the money to buy a corporation to make gin to addle the minds of the same dirt-poor farmers and make them forget they've been robbed.

The only principled compromise here is for Congress to open an investigation into the uses of the Countryside Development Fund, also called the pork barrel, not least by their very own Speaker. What principle is there in the congressmen seeing Davide's microscopic deviations from the 80-20 rule in the uses of the Judiciary Development Fund and not their wholesale deviations from using the CDF to benefit their constituents? The only principled compromise here is to scrap the pork barrel. The only principled compromise here is to stop Cojuangco from supplying the beer and the congressmen from supplying the *pulutan* in a drinking spree that excludes the people.

Indeed, the only principled compromise here is for Congress to investigate the President's culpability in the abduction of a key witness in a corruption charge against her husband, in using taxpayers' money to campaign before the prescribed period—not least in a rally announcing her intention to run after saying she would not—and in sanctioning the "salvaging" of a suspected terrorist to offer as gift to the visiting American president. Any one of them is ground for impeachment.

Then and only then may they dare to raise issues against Davide. If Ferdinand Marcos had accused Ninoy Aquino of being too ambitious and harboring fascist tendencies—which he did—would you have asked Ninoy to agree to a "principled compromise" with Marcos?

But having taken the side of the plotters, GMA rushed off to the other side after Corazon Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin spoke out in defense of Davide. If she wanted to hold firmly to the middle ground so as not "to derail the chances for a principled compromise," what in God's, or the devil's, name was she doing at the Mass held in support of Davide at the Supreme Court? What was she doing right in the middle of that group holding hands with Davide and saying peace to the world along with Corazon Aquino? Why did she not show herself as well at the Batasan and held hands with De Venecia in prayerful supplication while an angry crowd milled outside, Corazon Aquino at the head of it, calling on lightning bolts to strike the ungodly?

Ibon and other research groups say the perceived crisis in leadership has all but destroyed GMA. Well, if so, there is something sublime about it. It's almost enough to make you believe in divine retribution, or in providential irony, the one thing that drove GMA to power being also the one thing that has shoved her out of it. Lest we forget, GMA became President by refusing to do anything about the plague Erap had unleashed or indeed become. As late as the BW Resources scandal, when people were begging her to speak out against the growing cancer, she refused to be heard. Who knows? Maybe she did not want to be drawn to either side of the dispute so as not to derail the chances of a principled compromise with Erap and further erode national stability.

Thankfully for the nation, civil society, media, several principled senators and representatives and Cory and Cardinal Sin, saw that the only principled compromise you can have with tyranny was to end it. Not very thankfully for the nation, GMA was the first to profit from it. If it's true now that GMA is being undone by pulling another disappearing act while waiting for the dust to settle down to show who's winning, then life will have gone full circle. Heaven will have wrought a poetic closure to their not very divine tragedy, or comedy. And bequeathed a variation on the famous Greek aphorism: Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make, well, Wimpy.

Return JDF issue to committee

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SEN. Noli de Castro is still mulling if he should run in 2004. At the state dinner for President Bush I queried the neophyte senator on his plans and he said with a shake of the head, "*wala pa.*" But he admitted that my report was accurate about the pilgrimage he and his wife Arlene made late last September to the Blessed Virgin's shrine at Lourdes, France, to ask for divine guidance; in fact, they did the nightly procession twice. Sen. Joker Arroyo, who meets De Castro regularly in their "Wednesday Group," also reiterated that he is still mulling things, but I can imagine the temptation for him. A recent survey that Malacañang is privy to indicates that if De Castro joins the presidential race, he'd take 48 percent of the votes, leaving GMA, Roco and FPJ fighting for the rest.

* * *

Recently I wrote about an important Manila conference last Oct. 28, sponsored by Undersecretary Amado Valdez, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom), in order to assess the relevance of the four-year-old VFA and make it an effective tool for development. But unfortunately it never materialized, as Foreign Secretary Blas Ople suddenly verbally ordered its cancellation the day before and his people prevented two important speakers from delivering their talk. With no reason given, Valdez was advised that he cannot preside over the confab as he was already relieved as executive director in a faxed copy of the President's order, dated Oct. 26, a Sunday. Apparently what got Ople's ire was Valdez's determination to dig into a recent episode in Zamboanga City involving US servicemen who destroyed some properties during a drunken driving incident.

This is the second unfortunate episode for the affable Valdez, the first being his sudden relief as government corporate counsel, apparently on recommendations of The Firm, due to his isolated stand that the Piatco contract was aboveboard. I am saddened by the rough treatment accorded Valdez, as he does not deserve it. He was the first law dean to join the Erap impeachment process as private prosecutor; during the Oakwood mutiny he was an articulate defender of the constitutional government over tri-media. The Senate should investigate the gagging of Valdez.

* * *

Various sectors are now scrambling for solutions to the impasse between the Supreme Court and the House over the impeachment move, before Congress resumes session on Nov. 10. Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez disclosed over radio that the party is fielding teams of partymates to many signatories, asking them to withdraw their signatures. I share the view of many citizens that this is still the best way to solve the crisis—withdraw the impeachment complaint and then work for institutional reforms of the controversial Judicial Development Fund (JDF). The campaign for signature withdrawal is anchored on the fact that many lawmakers apparently signed without really knowing the truth, inasmuch as the justice committee still hadn't finished its investigation into the JDF when the impeachment complaint was suddenly filed by 87 lawmakers, led by the NPC.

* * *

Thank God sobriety seems to be returning. There is a growing clamor among House members to withdraw the complaint and return the JDF issue to the committee, which can summon all the documents from the Commission on Audit for in-depth study. One of them is Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III, who opined to me that "to investigate is one thing, but to impeach, which is to believe in the subject's guilt, is too much at this point." On the other hand, a group of House lawmakers, including Bulacan's Reylina Nicolas, who is among the signatories who have withdrawn their signatures, is pressing for the creation of a five-member "truth commission" to look into the JDF's possible misuse.

All these efforts are aimed at enabling the lawmakers to arrive at a rational way to oversee the JDF and protect it from possible misuse. But the first thing they ought to do is to junk impeachment as it evidently has little constitutional and factual basis.

* * *

Wrong perceptions are surfacing. Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri said in a statement that he signed because he was appalled by the "questionable ethics" in Davide's son Brian heading the Court's bids and awards committee, while the sole signatory of the funds used was the Chief Justice himself. But as is now evident, Brian, who serves as his father's eyes and ears, is only the committee vice chair, one of 12 members, and above him is the chair himself, Antonio Dujua, a known Narvasa man, and the co-chair, Virginia Soriano, the first division clerk of court. In view of this, let's appeal to Zubiri to withdraw his signature. Many lawmakers were also fed the wrong information about alleged irregularities in the JDF, but as lawyer Bong Bernas pointed out in the recent "Debate" program, a special COA audit report on the JDF authorized by no less than Congress and conducted for five years said everything was in order.

* * *

Senators Francis Pangilinan and John Osmeña have also seen fit to pull the JDF away from impeachment. Pangilinan, Senate justice committee chair, advocates a stand this column had aired last week: first amend PD 1949, which created the JDF under the "sole prerogative" of the Chief Justice. Then too, he and Osmeña co-authored a bill that prohibits the grant of allowances by local government units to members and personnel of the judiciary, sourcing these instead from the JDF. Osmeña had earlier objected to the anomalous practice of LGUs of funding the judges' allowances, and he is right: it is ill-disguised corruption that makes the judges beholden to the local executives, affecting possible court cases against the latter. By specifying these allowances in the JDF the senators are thus institutionalizing its judicious use.

The miseducation of George W. Bush

COMMENTARY

Paul D. Hutchcroft

FIRST Lady Laura Bush played schoolteacher on her recent stopover in Manila, reading stories to Filipino pupils assembled in a specially constructed mock schoolroom within the secure grounds of the presidential palace. When her husband later in the day addressed the Philippine Congress, it became clear that President George W. Bush is the one most in need of an education. There are three historical lessons, in particular, that should be spelled out on a White House chalkboard now that President Bush has returned home.

First, Bush conveniently skipped over the fact that the Philippines was, for nearly 50 years, a colony of the United States. "Together, our soldiers liberated the Philippines from colonial rule," Bush proclaimed, referring to the heroic sacrifices that freed the country from Japanese Occupation at the end of World War II. No mention was made of the long and brutal American war against the independent Philippine republic at the turn of the last century. Perhaps Bush agrees with what Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told Al Jazeera television in February: "We've never been a colonial power. We don't take our force and go around the world and try to take other people's real estate.... That's just not what the United States does."

This is not the first time that Bush has twisted the historical record. In earlier months, the Bush administration was fond of comparing its invasion of Iraq to the postwar American Occupation of Japan, led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. This American venture promoted sweeping socio-economic and political reforms, and enjoyed significant support from much of the civilian population.

Untenable from the start, this historical comparison has now lost its relevance. Indeed, the longer American forces remain bogged down in Iraq, the greater the comparability with the colonial past that Bush chooses to ignore. The more salient figure, it turns out, is another MacArthur: Gen. Arthur MacArthur, the father of Douglas and a leading figure in the colonization of the Philippines. Surprised by the fierce resistance of guerrilla forces, he implored Washington to send more troops. After two and a half years of conflict, the United States established civilian rule on July 4, 1901; it took several years more for American colonials to bring the entire country under its control. The war was fought under the banner of democracy, tied down some 70,000 US troops, and caused hundreds of thousands of casualties among those it was purportedly to benefit.

Second, Bush's speech extolled the democratic values that the two countries share—but ignored past American support for Philippine authoritarianism. Filipinos are justly proud of their rich democratic heritage, but this love of democracy has not always been supported by the former colonial power. The last time a Bush raised his glass at the Palace, in fact, it was Vice President George H. W. Bush telling dictator Ferdinand Marcos that "we admire your adherence to democratic principles and practices." As President George W. Bush last Saturday pledged that the United States would support democracy against terrorism, he was seemingly unaware that his own father had 22 years earlier supported a terrorist regime that killed 3,500 and tortured 35,000 of its own citizens. American presidents consistently and generously helped to strengthen the regime's repressive military forces in exchange for continued "unhampered access" to US military bases.

Third, Bush's prescriptions for fighting the current war on terror risks the resurgence of certain Cold War dynamics that are best relegated to history. Renewed reliance on the former colonial power is not good for promoting national self-reliance; renewed emphasis on military solutions especially in a country where the military has decidedly corrupt and putschist elements within is not good for democracy; and renewed dependence on American support encourages a return to the days when the favorable nod from Washington was a major factor in securing the Philippine presidency. Many of the warped world-views of the Cold War are being replicated in the war against terror: just as local guerrillas in the past were too readily viewed as mere proxies of international communism, so are local conflicts in the present era too often seen as mere manifestations of global terrorism.

The realities, in the Philippines and elsewhere, are usually far more complex. President Bush fails to acknowledge US colonial conquest and US support for dictators, and is blissfully ignorant of the overbearing and ill-conceived character of US relations with many client states during the Cold War. Addressing the challenges of our era requires a sound knowledge of history. It is time for President Bush to take some lessons.

Paul D. Hutchcroft is an associate professor of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is currently based in Cebu on a Fulbright research fellowship, and is a fellow at the Institute for Popular Democracy in Quezon City.

Judicial putschism—mightier than the Magdalo

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

IF the Lower House transmits the Articles of Impeachment against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. on Nov. 10, would it violate the not more than one a year rule on impeachment?

No. It won't violate the Constitution, according to House rules adopted after Joseph Estrada was impeached and the question first arose. The rules say that the House initiates an impeachment proceeding with the Articles of Impeachment for a Senate trial, that is, when it actually impeaches somebody. That's the way it ought to be, it seems to me.

But some people who know better, like Raul Roco and Davide, proclaim the merely colloquial interpretation that filing a complaint for alleged impeachable offenses initiates impeachment proceedings. That's silly and they know it. What they call "impeachment proceedings" are like the preliminary investigation phase of a criminal case. They know that, but they are pandering to supporters.

The pro-Davide noise barrage of the Makati Business Club and the Catholic Taliban is pathetic. They want to tear off the blindfold of Blind Justice and tip its scales saying, "Look what a good and decent, Bible-reading man you are impeaching." They want us to prejudge the innocence of a virtuous Davide, just as they prejudged the guilt of a venal Estrada. Both characterizations may be accurate, but I want a rule of law, not a rule of men, not even of saintly ex-presidents, ex-prelates and ex-framers. Power corrupts and only regular replacement by free, democratic elections can ensure our liberty from tyrants.

The House rules make impeachment analogous to indictment in ordinary cases. Thus, the House upholds the once-per-year rule, but it may conduct as many "preliminary investigations" as it needs to, before filing the proper information and charges against the accused in the proper court—the Senate. (I see in the Sunday INQUIRER that neighbor, Justice Isagani Cruz, likes this way of saying it.) Here is a logical demonstration that there is only one impeachment against Davide. Look at Section 3 Article XI (Accountability of Public Officers) of the Constitution and the proper context of the once-per-year-rule:

(1) The House of Representatives shall have the exclusive power to ***initiate all cases of impeachment***...

(5) No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year.

(6) The Senate shall have the sole power to try and decide ***all cases of impeachment.***

The phrase "all cases of impeachment" in both (1) and (6) refers to one and the same thing. That which the House of Representatives shall have the exclusive power to initiate, is one and the same thing as that over which the Senate shall have the sole power to try and decide. What only the House can initiate, only the Senate can terminate as a case of impeachment.

Assume for the purposes of *argumentum reductio ad absurdum*, that it is the second time the House will initiate a case of impeachment against Davide and not the first time. Then, the first time it exercised that sole power, the Senate by logical necessity, must have tried and decided that first case. The Senate must have terminated that proceeding already, if the House is allegedly initiating a second unconstitutional case against Davide.

But the Senate has never exercised its sole power to try and decide any case against Davide. How can there be a second case of impeachment initiated, when we have neither record nor memory of a first one being terminated in the Senate, as the Constitution requires? This is a logical contradiction. The hypothesis of a second impeachment must be false and absurd. Ergo, this is the first and only case of impeachment initiated against Davide in the iron-clad sense of the Constitution's simple but subtle mathematics. *Quod erat demonstrandum.*

I believe that Davide is actually a good and decent man. I hope he will be acquitted at trial. But begins again, the beguine that we danced with Erap, only this time the shoe is on the other foot. Yet, we must face the music and do it right, so that we may prove to ourselves that our Lady Justice is blind, that our system can impartially adjudge the guilt or innocence of an accused, based on evidence at trial, not reputation at-large, not even the say-so of Saint Cory, Cardinal Sin, Justice Davide, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Code-NGO.

Davide is such a good man that he could not countenance the seeming victory of evil on Jan. 16, 2001. The impeachment trial got away from him as the craven 11 voted and the prosecution aborted the trial by walking out, before he could prove his mettle and rule on Clarissa Ocampo. So Davide cheated Democracy on Jan. 20, 2001—to rescue Justice in his time, by declaring the presidency vacant when it simply was not.

He acted as a savior, not a judge. When the Supreme Court ruled in Estrada vs. Arroyo, Davide was not acting as a neutral, impartial judge, but was legitimizing his own purposeful and illegal act at Edsa II, of getting rid of Erap for us and giving us Gloria. His karmic crime is judicial putschism—mightier than Magdalo and grander than ordinary judicial activism.

If the high court makes permanent its improper Status Quo Order, and diminishes Congress' exclusive powers of impeachment, another devastating precedent of *diktat* by the judiciary will be set. Jose Pidal may rule us all yet, and I will miss Hilario Davide with you. *(Visit my website-http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/).*

Questionable caption

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

A PICTURE speaks a thousand words, so the saying goes. No words can describe something better than a good camera or video shot of the thing, person or event involved. Unless digitally manipulated (which is easy to do nowadays because of the advances in photo technology), pictures generally do not lie.

Although newspaper photos can speak for themselves, it helps if they are accompanied by captions, or cutlines as journalists call them, that describe their contents or identify the persons or incidents caught on film. Unfortunately, there are instances when the caption does not do justice to or, worse, misinterprets, the photo it is supposed to support.

Something similar happened to a photo that came out in the Across the Nation section of the INQUIRER last Oct. 29. The picture showed the back of two men in white barong tagalog with black armbands on their left arms. Their right hand palms were held up high in front of the Philippine flag. They appeared to be reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance" in a flag ceremony.

The photo caption read: "Two lawyers take their pledge of loyalty in front of a Philippine flag in a court in Quezon province not to country or duty, but to Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide who vowed to wage war on attempts to investigate charges he misused judiciary funds."

A Manila-based lawyer who maintains a law office in Lucena City cried foul over the caption. The tone of his voice gave me the impression that he was angry, very angry. He said the two lawyers shown in the picture are high-ranking officials of the Quezon chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the national association of lawyers.

Questionable

While he knows they support Davide's fight for judicial independence, he emphatically said it was "irresponsible and malicious" for the INQUIRER to say they pledged their loyalty to him, not to the flag or country, in last Monday's flag ceremony in front of Lucena City's court building.

The lawyer finds it unthinkable for his two *compañeros*, whom he claims to know very well, to have done the act imputed to them by the caption. In an obvious swipe at the congressmen who initiated the impeachment complaint against Davide, the lawyer stated that "they [referring to the two lawyers] are not illiterates but veteran lawyers who know the law, unlike the lawyer-congressmen who cannot even understand simple English."

He concluded with the statements: "How close was your reporter to the two lawyers for him to be able to hear them swear loyalty to the Chief Justice? It was obvious your reporter put words in the mouths of the lawyers. Did you have to invent stories about the lawyers' protest action to make your photo more dramatic?"

Although I had no reason to doubt the veracity of the lawyer's statements, I nonetheless checked with independent sources in Lucena City, including a friend who practices law in Quezon, some of the things he said. Some readers tend to exaggerate their complaints, so I make it a point to verify things before I act on them.

Clear error

The lawyer was right. The raising of hands was done in the course of the recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance" at the flag ceremony that morning. The alleged swearing of loyalty to Davide did not happen at all. The expression of support for Davide was made after the ceremony and was participated in, not only by the two lawyers, but also by other citizens who are against the filing of the second impeachment charge against Davide.

I'm keeping under wraps the names of the two lawyers lest I put the newspaper in more trouble. Their identities, however, are known to Quezon lawyers and provincial court personnel. Suffice it to say that they belong to the crème de la crème of Quezon's community of lawyers.

Looking further into the matter, I learned that the caption in question did not come from the correspondent who submitted the photo to the newspaper's head office. It is the correspondent's misfortune that it was attributed to him because his name was indicated as the photo contributor.

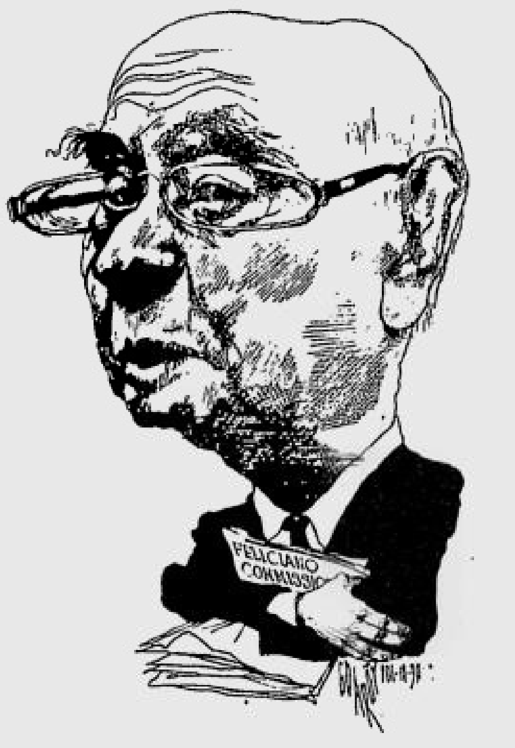
It is obvious the newspaper erred in stating in the caption that the two lawyers swore loyalty to Davide. Nothing of that sort happened. Something went wrong somewhere in the preparation of the caption.

Accordingly, the INQUIRER apologizes for the mistake. It seeks the indulgence of the lawyers who were wrongfully portrayed in the photo for the unfortunate slur that the caption might have caused their reputation. The attention of the section editor has been called to the booboo.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

IN THE NEWS



Florentino Feliciano

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There is hope for us

LAST July 25, 2003, Arnel de Lumen, a 46-year-old messenger, rode on the MRT. On the way to the Quezon Avenue station, he suddenly felt very sick. He became very dizzy and could not breathe.

He was forced to go down at the GMA Kamuning station and he asked for help and some water. An employee of the MRT, Francis Camarillo, immediately attended to him.

In about 30 minutes, the ambulance of Lifeline arrived complete with a doctor and emergency medical supplies.

He was rushed to the Heart Center and along the way, he was given an IV line and some medicine. He was diagnosed to have suffered a transient heart attack. After a few days of confinement, he was released. Today he is back working, leading a normal life without any ill effects.

Through all this emergency, he was attended to without being charged a single centavo. The following people deserve a commendation for responding to an emergency without consideration of any reward or remuneration.

1. The management of the MRT for maintaining complete medical facilities and trained personnel who can attend to this kind of emergency.

2. Camarillo, the MRT employee who had the presence of mind to immediately attend to the needs of the messenger.

3. The ambulance of Lifeline with its medical team.

The timely action of all the persons concerned averted the death or paralyzation of a victim of heart attack.

When we hear heartwarming stories like this where a life is saved or a disaster averted because of the concern shown by fellow Filipinos, then we realize that there is hope for our country.

—MANUEL S. TANJANGCO,
2/F Sunvar Plaza,
corner Amorsolo Street
and Pasay Road, Makati City

Theology of Ateneo's win over La Salle

I WOULD like to comment on Al Mendoza's thoughts on "religion" in relation to the Ateneo-De La Salle rivalry, which he expressed in his column titled, "Yeo, the chosen one." (PDI, 9/27/03)

I disagree with Mendoza's conclusion that "God had wanted De La Salle to win" the first semifinals game of this season against Ateneo and that "only God's hand could have altered the trajectory" of Rich Alvarez's miscalculation (possibly due to physical exhaustion) and De La Salle's tight defense that caused Alvarez to miss.

Joseph Yeo contributed enormously to his team's cause, no doubt. But he played a spectacular game because he developed his stamina, practiced hard and possessed the fighting spirit needed to lead his team to their lone victory this season over the Ateneo team.

When a good coach prays to God to help his team win, he is saying that he has prepared his team members physically and mentally for the game and that he has drilled them well. He does not ask or expect God to "play favorites." He implores God to help his team play its best.

Sometimes the team's best is not good enough. Then again, sometimes, it is.

When the Ateneo basketball team won its championship last year, Joel Banal did not say, "This proves that I am the greatest coach in the league!" or "Ateneo is the best team!" All he did was to thank God for giving and sustaining all their lives, acknowledging that without God, they are nothing. He expressed his gratitude to God for blessing the players with His grace so they could play their best, which resulted in ultimate victory.

I am certain that Banal did not mean, "God made the Ateneo team win." He simply declared that through the achievements of the Ateneo players prevailing against seemingly insurmountable odds and offering their victory to their Creator, God was glorified. This is consistent with the guiding principle that the Ateneo Jesuits have instilled in their students for many generations. "*Ad majorem Dei gloriam*": For the greater glory of God.

—GERRY PAPA,
gmop@skyinet.net

Monarchy in the Philippines

I DIDN'T realize that we have become a monarchy. High positions in government are now inherited by descendants of the present occupants, just like the titles of nobles in monarchies. In the latter, the titles of dukes, duchesses, barons, earls, etc. are passed on to their children. In the Philippines, the positions of senators are now passed on to the offspring of the senators.

In our Senate, a slot has been reserved for actor Bong Revilla who is to replace his father, Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr. What are the qualifications and achievements of Bong Revilla to merit such regard?

To top it, the daughter of another senator wants to inherit her father's title and position. Lawyer Pia Cayetano-Sebastian, only daughter of the late Sen. Renato Cayetano, wants to get the slot in the Lakas party's senatorial ticket that would have been her father's. What has she done to deserve being a senator?

The Philippine Senate used to be an august, respected body populated by brilliant statesmen and leaders of the likes of Manuel Quezon, Sergio Osmeña, Claro Recto, Jose Laurel, Lorenzo Tañada, Jose Diokno and Benigno Aquino Jr. Not anymore. With the likes of Revilla, Robert Jaworski, Gregorio Honasan, Vicente Sotto, Maria Luisa Ejercito and Teresita Oreta populating our Senate, its reputation has sunk to the depths.

—REYNALDO SARMIENTO,
reynaldo.sarmiento@dot.ca.gov

LETTERS

Publicize actual projects completed

THE POLITICAL season has unofficially begun with President Macapagal-Arroyo proclaiming her worthiness to run in May 2004, and four other aspirants eyeing the most powerful seat in Malacañang, too.

Let us remember, however, the recent study that 20-30 percent of public officials (one out of every three) have been actually corrupt, stashing away about $48 billion, an amount more than enough to pay our foreign debt—worse, the remaining 70 percent chose to turn a blind eye to it!

As a private citizen on whom rests the sovereign power to choose leaders, I challenge all incumbent officials, national and local, to publish in major dailies their list of actual and implemented projects, events, programs, infrastructure vis-à-vis their working budget.

I want to know. The public needs to know. It is our right to know.

Non-publication of their statement can mean:

(a) They don't want to cooperate.

(b) They have something to hide.

(c) Their constituents may perceive them as the alleged corrupt officials.

(d) They have been true, not to their pledge of public service, but to self-service.

Most importantly, it means they do **not** deserve anybody's vote in next year's election. Too many thieves spoil the country's growth.

—CARLOS K. AGUILAR,
senior consultant,
Ateneo Center for Continuing
Education, 130 HV dela Costa St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

Why Sin voted for Ramos in 1992

PLEASE allow us to add a page in the political life of Jaime Cardinal Sin, which seems to be missing in your editorial titled "Shifts," when you wrote: "Sin tried to throw the weight of the Church behind his opposition to the presidential candidacy of Gen. Fidel Ramos, probably because he was a Protestant and over certain moral issues. Despite the Church opposition, Ramos won."

"Eddie, I voted for you!" These were the exact words by which Sin greeted Gen. Fidel Ramos when he invited him to a private breakfast in Villa San Miguel a few days after the elections. Pleasantries and an exchange of experiences followed in an atmosphere of total friendship and trust.

What happened? It is not a secret that Sin was hoping to have a Catholic for the president of the Philippines, nonetheless, he was more concerned with the "good of the Filipino people and of the nation" than the religiosity of the candidate. This became more evident during the three or four private meetings we arranged and accompanied Ramos to present and to explain his programs of governance to Sin. These meetings were cordial, like among old friends. After all, it was the Radio Veritas' call of Sin that mobilized Edsa I as the last straw against a dictator and to protect the lives of former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and General Ramos.

About two weeks before the elections, the supporters of Ramos had a stroke of real luck. They caught Speaker Ramon Mitra, the favorite presidential candidate of the Catholic hierarchy, using the Congress printing press for his own political campaign materials.

This was a golden opportunity to convince Sin to say he was in favor of Ramos. The following morning, my wife and I asked to have breakfast with Sin and since Haydee Yorac was in Villa San Miguel, Sin asked her in the presence of all the people: "Haydee, what happened yesterday afternoon?" The answer was unequivocal, "Oh yes, Your Eminence, I saw in the Congress printing press piles of campaign materials of Mitra with still fresh ink."

This was the political turning point for Sin. He told us to arrange another meeting with Ramos as soon as possible, because he felt that the country could be served better by a Protestant.

The meeting was arranged immediately. Unfortunately Ramos could not come on account of an explosion in Zamboanga City that required his presence, nonetheless he sent his representatives: Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez, Rafael Alunan and Leticia Shahani. Many people still undecided, came to know of the new stand of Sin and followed his example.

One more word: In the beginning, there was not much opposition "over certain moral issues." Ramos clearly stated that the method of population control "will be left to the conscience" of couples and that he would legalize "*jueteng*" under a lotto formula. His stand on moral issues was explained at length to many Catholic bishops gathered in the house of an ambassador.

—ROGER AND SIONY
PRIORESCHI, Good Shepherd
Spiritual Center, Emerald Hills,
Barangay Sta. Cruz, Antipolo City

Weeping for the country

READING Sen. Joker Arroyo's insights regarding the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. reinforced my belief that the elected leaders of our country think only of themselves and their vested interests, and are oblivious to the ill consequences of their action. We elected our leaders hoping that they would lead us with dignity to prosperity and a better life. Sadly, as we can see, they have failed us.

This impeachment will drive away much needed foreign investments and will eventually plunge this country deeper into poverty. Unlike Peron, I do not cry for the Philippines. I weep for my country.

—NELIA BALAGAPO,
nbalagapo@hotmail.com

Trees had to be cut

THIS refers to the news item titled "Save the trees please." (PDI, 8/22/03)

Please be informed that the above-mentioned trees were the subject of the letter of request dated June 24, 2003 of a Mr. Tadeo, secretary of the mayor, OIC, Novaliches District Center, Quezon City, requesting clearance to cut three trees to give way to the road widening of Tandang Sora corner Visayas Avenue, Quezon City. The request was acted upon by this office in letters last July 24, 2003 to Tadeo and Ma. Victoria Co. Pilar, barangay chair of Pasong Tamo, advising them that the head of the political subdivision, having jurisdiction over the area, has the authority to issue a permit to cut the trees for public safety pursuant to Presidential Decree 953.

Verification conducted by our personnel showed that two trees—an acacia and a tamarind tree—were cut. The remaining mango tree located within a private property was still intact but will be affected by the project. The owner of the property where the mango tree is located wrote a letter interposing no objection to the cutting of the tree.

—CORAZON C. DAVIS,
regional executive
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of Environment
and Natural
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Plaza Bldg.,
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Ave., Project 8,
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Agri exec says Cabinet backs veggie imports

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Bureau of Plant Industry Director Blo Umpar Adiong said here on Friday that the government is encouraging vegetable imports from China to obtain better trade leverage from Australia.

Adiong had been blamed for the unabated importation of vegetables from other countries, which displaced local farm produce from Metro Manila markets.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas accused Adiong of allowing the entry of samples of Chinese carrots weighing 25,000 kilograms, despite a verbal instruction from President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2002 to freeze vegetable imports.

But Adiong told reporters that these import samples were part of an arrangement reached by the BPI and the departments of agriculture, foreign affairs and trade and industry early this year.

He was referring to a June 18 conference, which addressed the country's trade concerns with China.

Malacañang and government trade experts were concerned about the free flow of Australian vegetables when the Australian government refused to accept Philippine mangoes, Adiong said.

The government had planned to sue the Australian government before the World Trade Organization for erecting this "trade barrier."

Adiong said the samples were cleared for entry to test the strategy.

The government no longer approved the entry of more vegetable samples from China, although the tests proved that Chinese imports could very well replace Australian imports in the country's high-end markets, he said.

Australian vegetables have been the choice commodities of Philippine hotels, airlines and restaurant chains, as well as by institutions like the Asian Development Bank, a BPI paper said.

The agreement to accelerate vegetable importations from China was forged in spite of Ms Macapagal's policy announcement in Benguet that vegetable imports would immediately stop, Adiong said.

He clarified that Ms Macapagal's only instructions to BPI, through Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr., was to maintain strict regulations on vegetable importation while BPI pursued a consolidation plan to upgrade technical and financial support for Benguet and Mt. Province farmers.

"She couldn't issue an order that would violate the (terms of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade) at the WTO," Adiong said.

Farmers, who attended the Friday press conference, were surprised by Adiong's revelations. Molintas and Mt. Province Gov. Sario Malinias had been asserting Ms Macapagal's moratorium order whenever they lobbied for stronger policies on agriculture.

Outside the BPI office, some 30 Benguet farmers launched a protest rally calling for Adiong's ouster. They said Adiong's problems were partly to blame for the feud pitting Lorenzo and four DA officials against commercial importers.

Last month, Lorenzo was sued for graft by one of the importers he was investigating on the strength of Molintas' complaint.

Adiong said the country preferred to trade with China because of its bigger bilateral potentials.

The DA-DFA consultation notes of the June 18 meeting shows that DA considers China as a disturbing development because of "the liberal market access it will accord Chinese vegetable imports."

The document pointed out that China usually cites Australia whenever it lobbies for the same "liberalized entry" of its goods into the Philippines.

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- Comelec Rules and Regulations
- Election Day Operations

The workshop will run on **Wednesday, November 26 to Friday, November 28, 2003,** from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Ayala Avenue, Makati.

For reservations or additional information, please call Lala or Shalini at telephone numbers 636-5619 and 633-1814.

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Bulacan mayor faces suit for not paying for vehicles

CEBU CITY—Hagonoy Mayor Felix Ople is facing a P10-million suit for refusing to pay for the 21 vehicles supplied by a Cebu City-based company for his town in Bulacan.

This after Regional Trial Court Judge Simeon Dumdum Jr. denied the motion of Ople, son of Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople, to dismiss the case filed by KD Surplus.

The court was not convinced with the defendants' grounds that Ople and the municipality of Hagonoy could not be sued based on the principle that "the government cannot be sued without its consent."

The defendants have maintained that there was no contract between KD Surplus and Ople and the municipal government. A contract can be taken as a form of consent.

In an order dated Oct. 20, Dumdum maintained that provinces, cities and municipalities such as Hagonoy "are subject to suit even when engaged in government functions because their charter provided that they can sue and be sued."

Ople, the judge said, was sued both in his official and personal capacity.

KD Surplus accused Ople and the Hagonoy municipal government of refusing to pay for the 21 vehicles, including two dump trucks, worth P10.02 million.

Emily Rose Go Ko Lim Chao of KD said the vehicles were shipped to Hagonoy from June to September 2000. Such delivery, she added, had not been denied.

Despite repeated demands, she added, the defendants did not settle their obligation.

But Ople, through his lawyer Joselito Reyes, maintained there was no contract or transaction that bound the defendants to KD Surplus.

They stressed that there was no single written contract or document that showed such a transaction existed.

For the transaction to be valid and binding, the defendants said, there should have been prior accreditation of suppliers and public bidding and the contract should have been ratified by the Municipal Council.

None of these requirements was allegedly followed.

Chao said Ople contacted their business office here in mid 2000 and expressed his intention to buy machinery and equipment to be used in a project in Hagonoy.

Despite her "initial hesitation," Chao said she later entered into a contract with Ople "after the latter's repeated assurances that public funds were already allocated for it."

After the vehicles were delivered, Chao said the defendants did not pay them.

KD Surplus even wrote the defendant's father, Secretary Ople "to intercede and help convince his son to pay the outstanding obligation," Chao said.

"My high regard to the father of the defendant mayor caused me to reconsider my intention to immediately sue and file a case against the mayor," she said.

Still, she added, "not a single centavo was tendered." *Suzzane B. Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

NLRC sheriff cleared

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman in Mindanao junked the bribery and graft charges filed by a certain Jimmy Yap against Jonel Ebol, sheriff of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) here. In a decision dated July 25, Ombudsman investigating officer Iluminada Viva claimed there was no strong evidence that could prove Ebol received the P5,000-alleged bribe money. Yap claimed that Ebol had demanded P30,000 from him in exchange for the reversal of a labor case which he lost. In that case, the NLRC ordered Yap to pay his workers P189,174.87. ***Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

School exec suspended

COTABATO CITY—Malacañang upheld its earlier decision to suspend for six months Cotabato City Schools Superintendent Dr. Ibrahim Guiapar for nepotism. Guiapar had been accused of hiring relatives to some positions at the Department of Education here, allegedly depriving more qualified non-relatives. Guiapar, through his counsel, filed a motion for reconsideration, but the argument for his retention was rejected. Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, in a resolution dated Sept. 22, denied Guiapar's motion after "finding him guilty of nepotism." ***Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

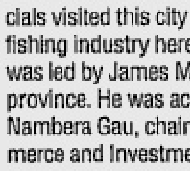
Agri lacks funds–Angara

DAVAO CITY—Only half of the prescribed P120-billion funds intended to uplift the lives of farmers and fishers were allocated in the past five years, according to Sen. Edgardo Angara. The government's failure to sufficiently fund projects under the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act has been hurting Mindanao, he said before Mindanao farmers and business entrepreneurs at the 5th Mindanao Food Congress on Thursday. Angara said based on the law, some P88 billion should have already been allocated for Afma in the past five years. But the amount released, he said, was only P52 billion. ***PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Papua New Guinea visitors

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Papua New Guinea officials visited this city Thursday to observe how the fishing industry here is being run. The delegation was led by James Madang, governor of Madang province. He was accompanied by his wife and Nambera Gau, chair of Papua New Guinea's Commerce and Investment Department. He told reporters that they visited the city to see how the fishing firms here process their tuna products. ***Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Countdown for Justice


WAPILE

IT is exactly 539 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

World Bank praises RP for 'zero-problem' projects

DAVAO CITY—For the first time since 1996, the Philippines has encountered "zero problem" in its implementation of World Bank-assisted projects.

An assessment made by the WB of its Philippines program said this was the highest the country has rated in years.

"The Philippines program has zero problem projects, down from four (projects) in FY02 and from a high of 11 four years ago," the WB's Country Office in the Philippines said in a newsletter issued for the second quarter of the year.

Because of this, the WB said it has upped its rating for the Philippines in terms of project implementation.

The Philippines "rose from the bottom slot" it shared with Vietnam in terms of implementation pace in June 2001 to fourth place in June 2003, ahead of Indonesia and Vietnam and slightly behind China.

WB country director Robert Vance Pulley lauded the performance of the Philippines in the pace and implementation of the projects assisted by the funding agency.

"Despite difficulties with the country's tight fiscal position, the Philippines was able to make a turnaround in the implementation of projects," Pulley said.

He attributed the good performance to the more efficient project execution by the line agencies and the more proactive support of oversight agencies like the Department of Budget and Management, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Finance, Commission on Audit, and the President's Priority Programs and Overseas Development Assisted Projects Office.

Pulley said the WB has already disbursed $205 million, coursed through government agencies and banks for 2003. Last year, it disbursed only $136 million.

The Land Bank of the Philippines remains the agency with the highest disbursement of $34.8 million for the third rural finance project. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Wife claims victim of 'clash' in Laguna a farm worker

MAJAYJAY, Laguna—The rebel claimed in police and military reports as having been killed in an encounter with Army soldiers in Lucban, Quezon last Tuesday was a farm worker.

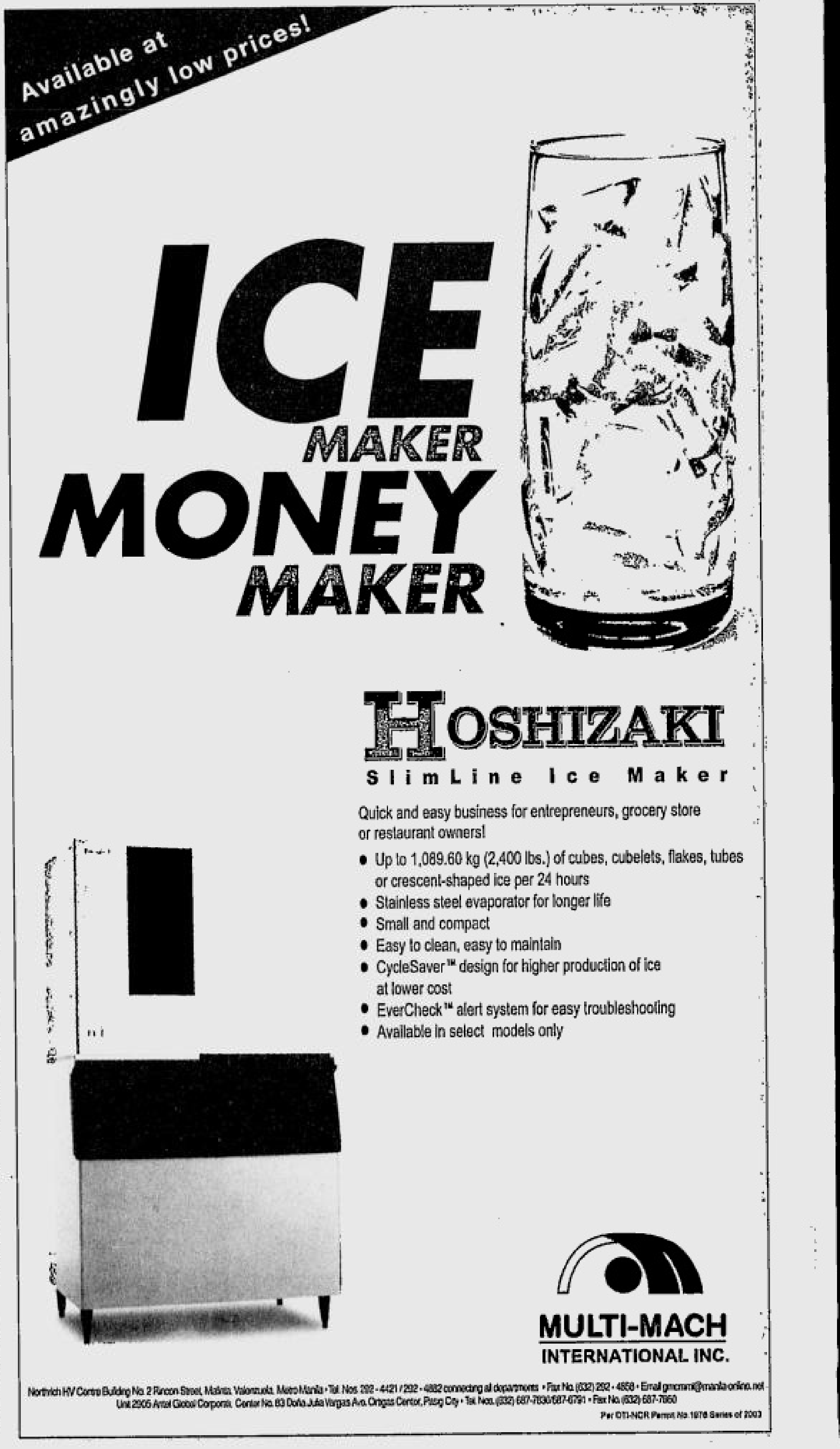
Relatives and neighbors of Mario Mercurio, who died of multiple bullet wounds in his body, claimed that the 36-year-old man would usually leave his home in Lucban early morning everyday, ride a jeepney to Barangay Igang where he left a horse for pasture, and ride the horse to Barangay Taytay in Majayjay, Laguna where he farmed.

His wife, Benita, showed Mercurio's residence certificate from Barangay Taytay as proof that he was a civilian. She said Mercurio left the house last Tuesday at around 6 a.m., wearing shorts and carrying a small bag with food and medicines for horses and arrived home everyday at around 7 p.m. She said he did not leave home for long periods of time.

Col. Virgilio Espeneli, head of the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion, said soldiers who were conducting pursuit operations found Mercurio's body beside a creek in the hinterlands, a few kilometers away from where the reported encounter took place.

Laguna police director Senior Supt. Edwin Corvera said Quezon policemen and Army troops were conducting an operation near the Laguna-Quezon boundary when they chanced upon 10 heavily armed men.

Soldiers said the armed group, believed to be New People's Army rebels, quickly fired at them, prompting them to retaliate. *Clarice Colting and Marlon Ramos, Southern Luzon Bureau*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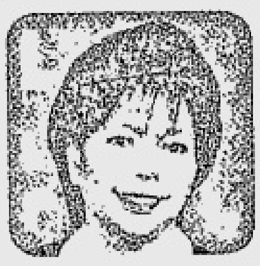
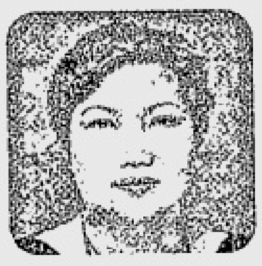
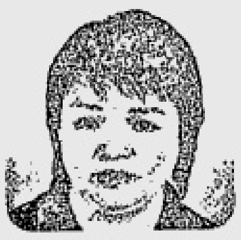
Yolanda M. Legaspi
Mulawin NBO



Corazon S. De Mesa
Mulawin NBO

Top NBM in SPI Points
[Nationwide]

Top 3 Agents in SPI Points
[Metro Manila]

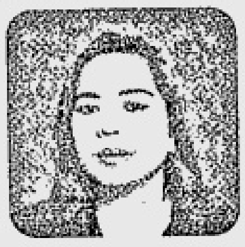

Marilou C. Tan**
Redwood NBO

Rosemarie L. Pabalan
Chestnut NBO

Rebecca Ann K. Sy
Cypress NBO

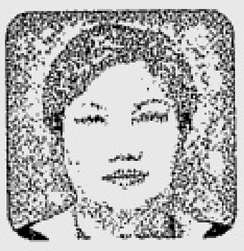
Top 3 Agents in Agency Points
[Luzon & South NBOs]

Gino C. Tan*
Banyan NBO

Jane J. Bocala
Mahogany NBO


Jean A. Sobiaco***
Durian NBO

Top NBM in SPI Points
[Metro Manila]


Corazon S. De Mesa
Mulawin NBO

Ma. Erlinda M. Buenaflor
Bristlecone NBO

Top NBM in SPI Points
[Luzon & South NBOs]

AUGUST CHAMPIONS

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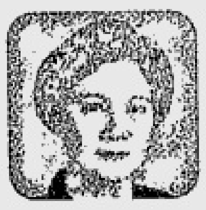
UNIT MANAGERS

Angelita R. Legaspi
Mulawin NBO

Daisy E. Narciso
Banyan NBO

SALES MANAGERS

Yolanda M. Legaspi
Mulawin NBO


Mary Elizabeth C. Go
Bristlecone NBO

NEW BUSINESS MANAGERS

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Mulawin NBO

Ma. Erlinda M. Buenaflor
Bristlecone NBO

Visitacion Lilia C. Chang
Osmanthus NBO

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Chestnut NBO

Jacqueline D. Abasolo
Palm NBO

Aurora P. Chua**
Osmanthus NBO

Marcelina B. Cheng
Mulawin NBO

Lilibeth T. Lim
Osmanthus NBO

Vhivian T. Wong
Osmanthus NBO

Letty L. Lacson
Cedar NBO

Gino C. Tan*
Banyan NBO

Jane J. Bocala
Mahogany NBO

Rebecca Ann K. Sy
Cypress NBO

Margie O. Pampanga
Cedar NBO

Grace L. Tan
Jacaranda NBO

Darelle S. Yu Tian
Jacaranda NBO

Lana Divina S. Tayo
Molave NBO

Angelita Y. Ong
Tindalo NBO

Soledad G. Castro
Olive NBO

Elsa G. Bargo
Bristlecone NBO

Rosemarie M. Guasin
Bristlecone NBO

Imelda R. Mercado
Cedar NBO

Jean A. Sobiaco***
Durian NBO

Cecilia A. Bonilla
Bristlecone NBO

Julieta A. Rivera
Acacia NBO

Josephine A. Sillo*
Bristlecone NBO

Leticia D. De Leon
Luzon Sales Offices

Cynthia C. Castro
Tindalo NBO

Jocelyn J. Sucero**
Bristlecone NBO

Nelson B. Nava
Bristlecone NBO

Pamela B. Teves
Banyan NBO

Dionam L. Basco
Bristlecone NBO

Clarence Y. Uy
Banyan NBO

Leticia C. Dimazana
Aspen NBO

Ma. Lourdes Martinez
Banyan NBO

Irene R. Ricamonte
Bristlecone NBO

Marycris P. Refugio-Fallarme
Mulawin NBO

Rebecca M. Peralta
Tindalo NBO

SILVER LEVEL

Joselyn C. Tiu
Palm NBO

Monina L. Sanchez
Molave NBO

Tita T. Tecson*
Jacaranda NBO

Evelyn L. Monzon**
Jacaranda NBO

Mary Grace J. Soberano
Banyan NBO

Joanne C. Pua
Palm NBO

Virginia C. Jadan
Bristlecone NBO

Margie A. Patrivo
Mahogany NBO

Amanda O. Tan
Cypress NBO

Carmelita P. Benedicto
Olive NBO

Catherine N. Armea
Eucalyptus NBO

Ma. Jean D. Teves
Molave NBO

Elena A. Navarro
Molave NBO

Armi G. Aligonero
Bristlecone NBO

Joyce Marie F. Tankeh
Cedar NBO

Jean Grace C. Dela Cruz*
Banyan NBO

Eloisa M. Peñaranda**
Tindalo NBO

Maricar H. Encajonado
Bristlecone NBO

Edgardo M. De Leon Jr.
Mulawin NBO

Isabelita A. Gonzales
Mulawin NBO

Jennifer G. Lim
Bristlecone NBO

Vinia B. Camacho
Eucalyptus NBO

Victoria V. Bautista
Linden NBO

Zarina L Caingat*
Olive NBO

Urduja B. Martinez
Chestnut NBO

BRONZE LEVEL

Wilhelmina L. Bondoc***, *Luzon Sales Offices*
Arthur S. Tiu, *Jacaranda NBO*
Salvador T. Valbuena, *Cypress NBO*
Silvia A. Yu, *Linden NBO*
Mary Jane Ng-Santiago*, *Redwood NBO*
Julieta T. Aramburo, *Molave NBO*
Arlyn T. Tan, *Birch NBO*
Rosing A. Dy, *Redwood NBO*
Josephine G. Pamintuan***, *Mulawin NBO*
Virginia S. Ang**, *Tindalo NBO*
Marc M. Francisco, *Cedar NBO*
Kathrine G. Ahing, *Birch NBO*
Maria C. Cuña, *Tindalo NBO*
Ariel F. Chioco, *Molave NBO*
Elizabeth L. Caronan, *Tindalo NBO*
Ma. Marivic D. Funtanilla, *Luzon Sales Offices*
Zenaida S. Tan, *Sequoia NBO*
Maria Belencita B. Ng, *Luzon Sales Offices*
Corazon C. Macahilig*, *Mahogany NBO*
Elizabeth Gina P. Sy, *Linden NBO*
Virginia S. Sun, *Sequoia NBO*
Roosevelt L. Tan Giok Gee Jr., *Palm NBO*
Ma. Rosario C. Consulta, *Tindalo NBO*
Rosario T. Cue, *Maple NBO*
Armando E. Legaspi**, *Mulawin NBO*
Stephen C. Aranas, *Sequoia NBO*
Judy R. Fortades*, *Molave NBO*
Ma. Lourdes P. Perez, *Chestnut NBO*
Alex A. Chua, *Redwood NBO*
Caroline M. Verceles, *Mulawin NBO*
Ma. Lourdes I. Orcullo, *Acacia NBO*
Bernard V. Villareña, *Cedar NBO*
Felipe Neri N. Yap, *Mahogany NBO*
Gloria T. Wee, *Durian NBO*
Mariquita P. Concepcion-Toledanes, *Linden NBO*
Joseph J. Tabirara, *Molave NBO*
Julbertda G. Almanzor, *Acacia NBO*
Aida I. Villano, *Durian NBO*
Lorna Q. Velasco, *Cedar NBO*
Bobinio P. Namuag, *Durian NBO*
Alvin A. Aycardo, *Mulawin NBO*
Editha M. Bernardez*, *Molave NBO*
Diane D. Perfecto**, *Eucalyptus NBO*
Betty S. Duzon, *Osmanthus NBO*
Rizalina O. Cortez, *Mulawin NBO*
Salvacion B. Jade, *Bristlecone NBO*
Melissa Jane F. Caranto, *Tindalo NBO*
Severina S. Novera, *Tindalo NBO*
Linda T. Chua**, *Osmanthus NBO*
Cirila-Clarizza A. Morales, *Luzon Sales Offices*
Mildred D. Baliang, *Molave NBO*
Marciano S. Dela Cruz Jr., *Luzon Sales Offices*
Susan G. Pascual, *Eucalyptus NBO*
Annalee T. Hilario, *Osmanthus NBO*
Corazon D. Mina, *Mulawin NBO*
Rosario H. Yue Sin, *Bristlecone NBO*
Lucia U. Margaja**, *Acacia NBO*
Ernesto B. Go*, *Bristlecone NBO*
Erna C. Gonzales**, *Bristlecone NBO*
Rubi Elena M. Garcia, *Sequoia NBO*
Lourdes C. Tonquin, *Bristlecone NBO*
Vanessa S. Lugue-Castro, *Eucalyptus NBO*
Glenda G. Galeon, *Linden NBO*
Jesril L. Mijares, *Bristlecone NBO*
Rhoda A. Bumanlag*, *Durian NBO*
Benedicta B. Lumbo**, *Mahogany NBO*
Apolinario C. Bonilla**, *Bristlecone NBO*
Zenaida V. Arevalo, *Molave NBO*
Zulita C. Vasallo, *Tindalo NBO*
Maria Corazon J. Dorado, *Chestnut NBO*
Theresa S. Ylaya, *Durian NBO*
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Grim tales of death hound 'desaparecidos' kin

By Ryan D. Rosauro
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MOLAVE, Zamboanga del Sur—The living have a lot of tales about the dead. But the dead, too, can tell a lot of tales.

For many human rights victims, these tales could range from the grim and harrowing manner that they were subjected to before dying, to why they were treated that way.

These are sordid details that the families they left from among the living have to bear in remembrance at each candle and flower laid in their memory.

Among those individuals is Cleta Monsanto who lost her husband, Ireneo, on Nov. 10, 1985 in Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur.

Ireneo, a teacher and parish worker, was on his way to Pagadian City when the jeepney he was riding in was flagged down by militiamen. After identifying him through his residence certificate, they took him away for unknown reasons.

Nothing was known about him until after five days when news reached his family that he was already dead.

But his body was nowhere to be found. The Monsanto family was only told of witnesses' accounts that Ireneo's captors removed his shirt before beheading him.

Early in 1992, over seven years after the incident, some persons located the site where Ireneo was supposedly buried, in a hinterland community between Mahayag and Dumingag towns. When parts of the grave site were dug, Monsanto was positive it is her husband that was buried because of the clothes that were recovered in it.

Monsanto and her family contented themselves with the finding, as they arranged for a full-blown exhumation and prepared for a decent burial plot for Ireneo.

When the family returned on All Souls Day to lay candles and flowers for Ireneo, they were shocked to discover the entire grave site to have been already dug out.

Unusual grave sites that tell of extraordinary death stories such as that of Monsanto's husband litter the vast Zamboanga Peninsula, which is known for its mineral resources.

The graves contain mostly human rights victims who disappeared and continue to be missing, hence listed as desaparecidos.

The human rights group Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances had documented over 200 persons who figured in disappearance cases in the region, and only about 40 were found through exhumation.

Three mass graves in Zamboanga del Norte are being eyed for exhumation. Accounts of informants say, these contain 23 massacre victims.

MASKED dancers struck at Session Road on the eve of Halloween to drive away the spirits of commercialism and globalization from Igorot soil.
EV ESPIRITU

Masked dancers drive away WTO ghosts from Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—Dancers wearing Igorot-inspired masks hopped to a tribal beat down Session Road on Thursday night to remind the government that the public's real enemy is unfair global trade and uncontrolled commercialism.

The dancers belonged to Tropang Paltok, an activist theater group that had been producing the "Anito" street performances for three years now to drive away the negative effects of commercialism.

Mask maker Edgardo Espiritu said "Anito" has ignored the recent conflicts between Congress and the Supreme Court "because the country's real problem is the World Trade Organization and how it will destroy Cordillera culture."

He said the government has not yet convinced people that it can help soften the blow of free trade, now that *ukay-ukay* or bargain stores abound here and a shopping mall is about to open late this month.

Left unresolved, WTO rules will slowly eat up local farms, from where the rich culture of most Cordillera tribes draws their relevance, Espiritu said.

But residents and tourists, who saw the performance, were more attracted to the masks.

This year's "Anito" featured intricate masks that combined the colors and icons of rice cultures in Kalinga and Ifugao.

At first glance, the masks appear to copy Indonesian masks, because of jagged fangs that protrude from at least three special masks.

But Espiritu incorporated Cordilleran symbols. Each mask is adorned with crowns that represent Ifugao symbols for the sky, the Philippine eagle and clouds.

The masks are painted with geometric symbols taken from indigenous Ifugao, Kalinga, Bontoc and Ibaloi tattoos. They are decorated with beards of straw that resemble rice stalks.

Dancers painted in green wore the masks as they danced to tribal drumbeats. Twelve women, with painted faces, followed the masked dancers.

The dancers performed before major Baguio department stores and restaurants to "drive away the soulless spirits of over commercialism."

The dancers brushed at imaginary ghosts with flaming torches. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Rebels reflect on the heroism of their dead comrades

LUCENA CITY—For members of the communist movement, All Souls Day is spent in collective reflection of the heroic deeds of dead comrades.

"Since we don't have a regular cemetery here in Red-zone areas for us to visit and pay our respects, we usually spend important occasions like All Souls Day with the masses," said communist spokesperson Gregorio Rosal in a phone interview.

They interact with the barrio folk and discuss with them problems and the burning issues of the day.

He said the villagers prepare delicacies like "suman," a native rice cake wrapped in banana leaves, which they offer to New People's Army guerrillas.

"The members of the revolutionary forces appreciate the food very much, especially if served with steaming coffee," Rosal said.

He said the Communist Party of the Philippines does not prevent members from practicing their beliefs for their departed loved ones during All Souls Day.

"Some of our comrades recite prayers and light candles inside the camp and we tolerate that as long as the practice does not jeopardize the safety and security of the rest," he said.

Rosal said his group reveres their dead comrades.

"That's why, as much as possible and if the opportunity allows, we always bring with us in our retreat the wounded and dead bodies of our comrades. We don't want their bodies to suffer indignities from the hands of the military," he explained.

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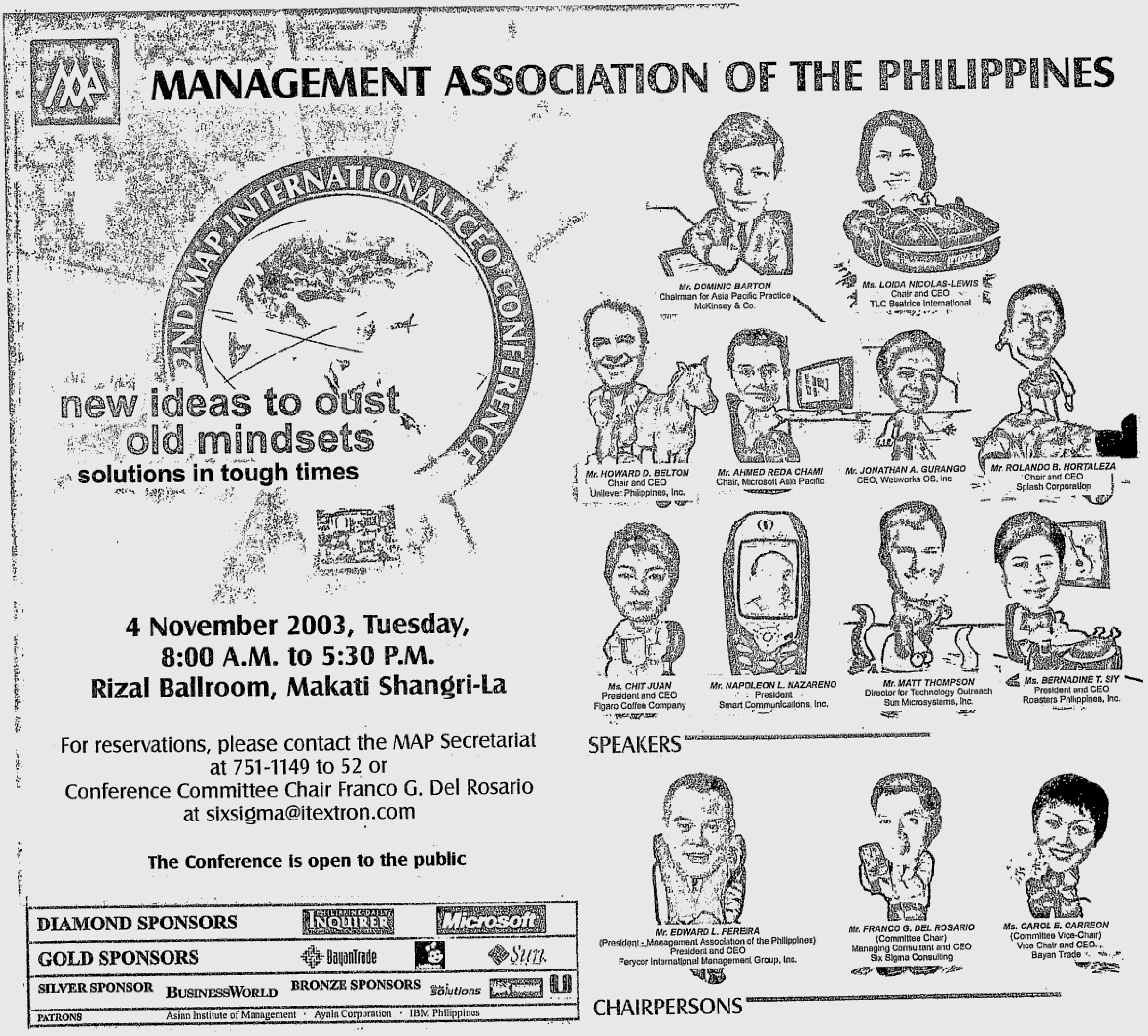
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Grim tales of death hound 'desaparecidos' kin

By Ryan D. Rosauro
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MOLAVE, Zamboanga del Sur—The living have a lot of tales about the dead. But the dead, too, can tell a lot of tales.

For many human rights victims, these tales could range from the grim and harrowing manner that they were subjected to before dying, to why they were treated that way.

These are sordid details that the families they left from among the living have to bear in remembrance at each candle and-flower laid in their memory.

Among those individuals is Cleta Monsanto who lost her husband, Ireneo, on Nov. 10, 1985 in Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur.

Ireneo, a teacher and parish worker, was on his way to Pagadian City when the jeepney he was riding in was flagged down by militiamen. After identifying him through his residence certificate, they took him away for unknown reasons.

Nothing was known about him until after five days when news reached his family that he was already dead.

But his body was nowhere to be found. The Monsanto family was only told of witnesses' accounts that Ireneo's captors removed his shirt before beheading him.

Early in 1992, over seven years after the incident, some persons located the site where Ireneo was supposedly buried, in a hinterland community between Mahayag and Dumingag towns. When parts of the grave site were dug, Monsanto was positive it is her husband that was buried because of the clothes that were recovered in it.

Monsanto and her family contented themselves with the finding, as they arranged for a full-blown exhumation and prepared for a decent burial plot for Ireneo.

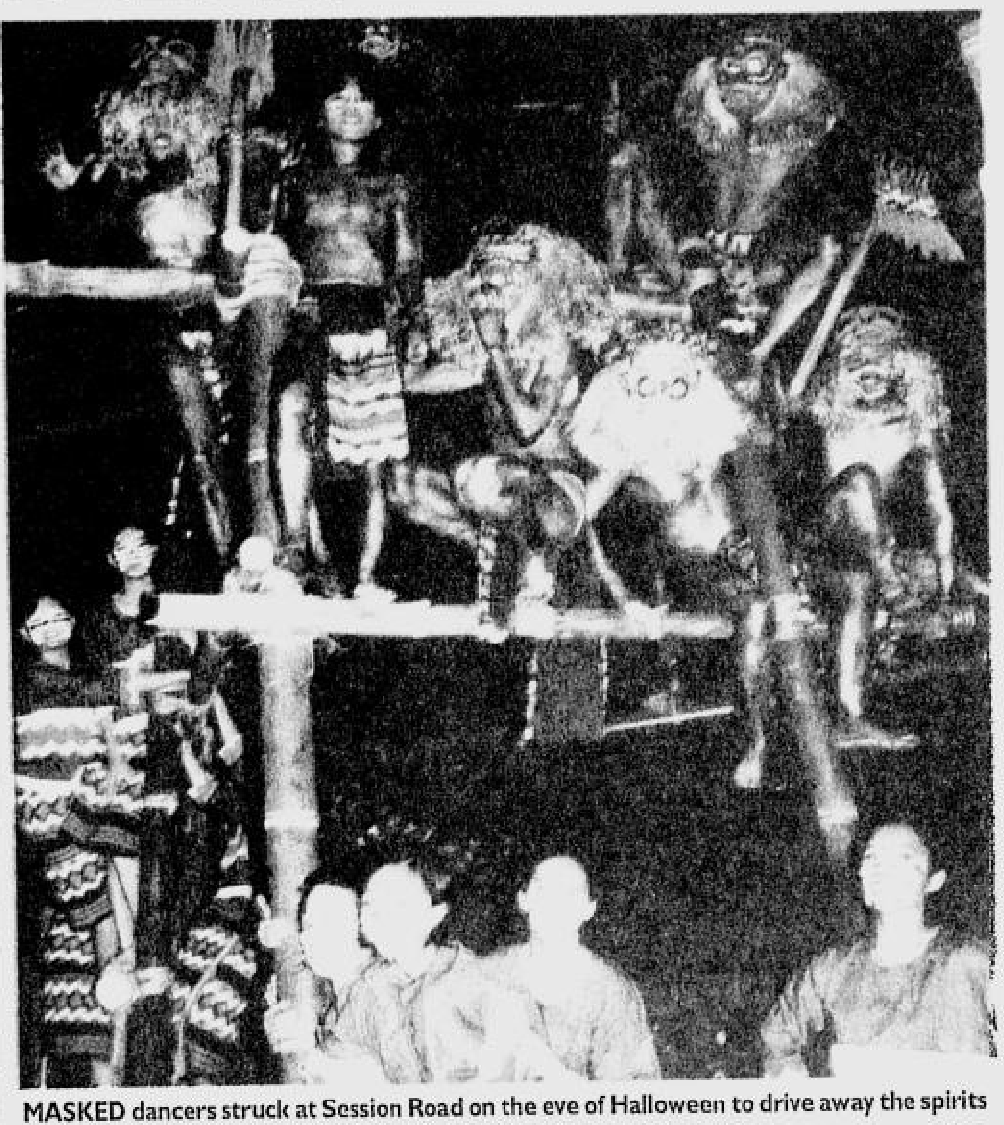
When the family returned on All Souls Day to lay candles and flowers for Ireneo, they were shocked to discover the entire grave site to have been already dug out.

Unusual grave sites that tell of extraordinary death stories such as that of Monsanto's husband litter the vast Zamboanga Peninsula, which is known for its mineral resources.

The graves contain mostly human rights victims who disappeared and continue to be missing, hence listed as desaparecidos.

The human rights group Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances had documented over 200 persons who figured in disappearance cases in the region, and only about 40 were found through exhumation.

Three mass graves in Zamboanga del Norte are being eyed for exhumation. Accounts of informants say, these contain 23 massacre victims.



MASKED dancers struck at Session Road on the eve of Halloween to drive away the spirits of commercialism and globalization from Igorot soil. EV ESPIRITU

Masked dancers drive away WTO ghosts from Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—Dancers wearing Igorot-inspired masks hopped to a tribal beat down Session Road on Thursday night to remind the government that the public's real enemy is unfair global trade and uncontrolled commercialism.

The dancers belonged to Tropang Paltok, an activist theater group that had been producing the "Anito" street performances for three years now to drive away the negative effects of commercialism.

Mask maker Edgardo Espiritu said "Anito" has ignored the recent conflicts between Congress and the Supreme Court "because the country's real problem is the World Trade Organization and how it will destroy Cordillera culture."

He said the government has not yet convinced people that it can help soften the blow of free trade, now that *ukay-ukay* or bargain stores abound here and a shopping mall is about to open late this month.

Left unresolved, WTO rules will slowly eat up local farms, from where the rich culture of most Cordillera tribes draws their relevance, Espiritu said.

But residents and tourists who saw the performance, were more attracted to the masks.

This year's "Anito" featured intricate masks that combined the colors and icons of rice cultures in Kalinga and Ifugao.

At first glance, the masks appear to copy Indonesian masks, because of jagged fangs that protrude from at least three special masks.

But Espiritu incorporated Cordilleran symbols. Each mask is adorned with crowns that represent Ifugao symbols for the sky, the Philippine eagle and clouds.

The masks are painted with geometric symbols taken from indigenous Ifugao, Kalinga, Bontoc and Ibaloi tattoos. They are decorated with beards of straw that resemble rice stalks.

Dancers painted in green wore the masks as they danced to tribal drumbeats. Twelve women, with painted faces, followed the masked dancers.

The dancers performed before major Baguio department stores and restaurants to "drive away the soulless spirits of over commercialism."

The dancers brushed at imaginary ghosts with flaming torches. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Rebels reflect on the heroism of their dead comrades

LUCENA CITY—For members of the communist movement, All Souls Day is spent in collective reflection of the heroic deeds of dead comrades.

"Since we don't have a regular cemetery here in Red-zone areas for us to visit and pay our respects, we usually spend important occasions like All Souls Day with the masses," said communist spokesperson Gregorio Rosal in a phone interview.

They interact with the barrio folk and discuss with them problems and the burning issues of the day.

He said the villagers prepare delicacies like "suman," a native rice cake wrapped in banana leaves, which they offer to New People's Army guerrillas

"The members of the revolutionary forces appreciate the food very much, especially if served with steaming coffee," Rosal said.

He said the Communist Party of the Philippines does not prevent members from practicing their beliefs for their departed loved ones during All Souls Day.

"Some of our comrades recite prayers and light candles inside the camp and we tolerate that as long as the practice does not jeopardize the safety and security of the rest," he said.

Rosal said his group reveres their dead comrades.

"That's why, as much as possible and if the opportunity allows, we always bring with us in our retreat the wounded and dead bodies of our comrades. We don't want their bodies to suffer indignities from the hands of the military," he explained.

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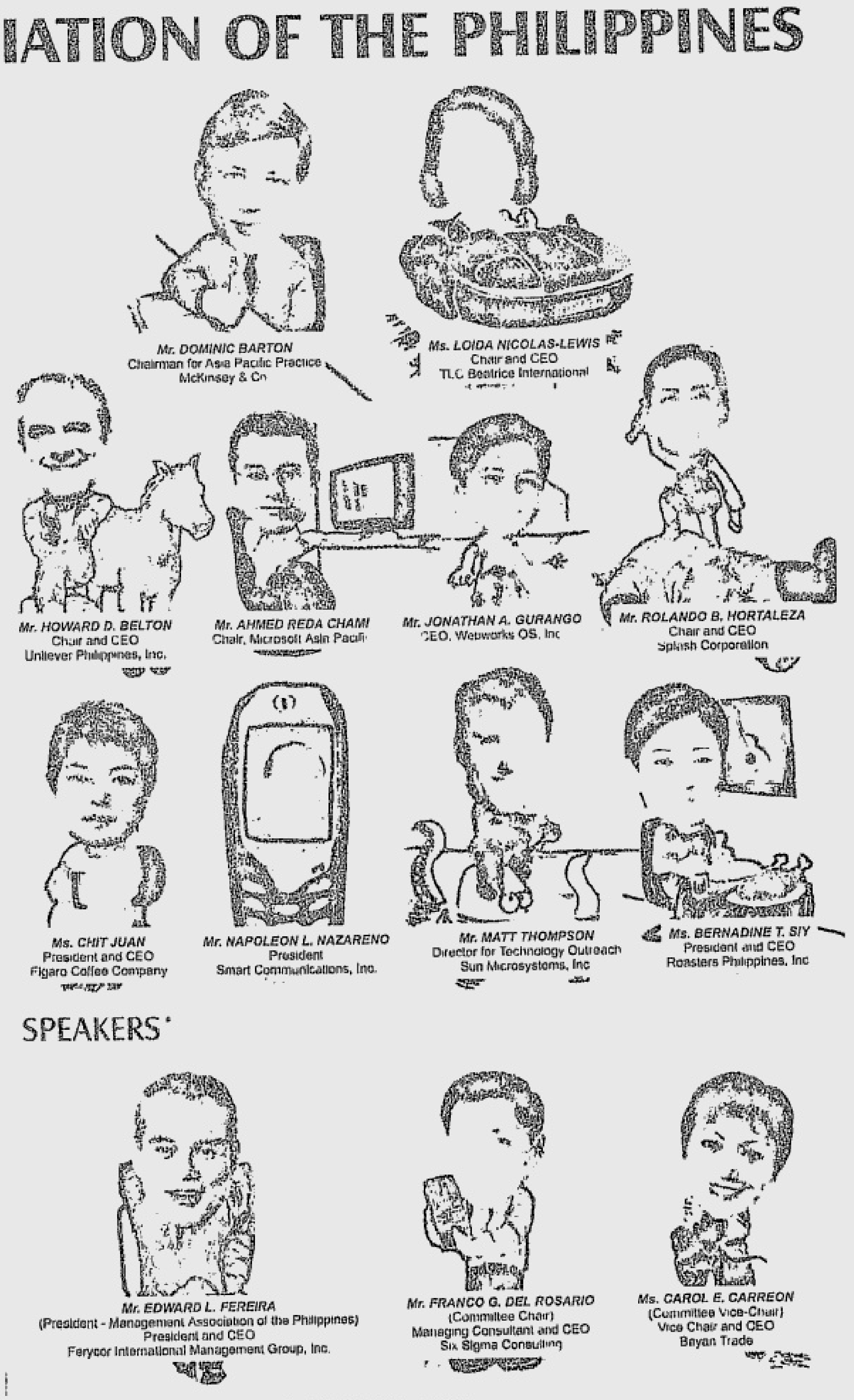

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Impeach rap raises issue of abuse of power

From page A1

and upholding the legitimacy of Ms Macapagal's accession.

Without having to discuss the constitutionality of the second impeachment complaint and the substance of the complaint (I leave that to lawyers), it is sufficient, for the purpose of this article, to examine the constitutional crisis triggered by the second complaint from the larger perspective of the stability of Philippine constitutional democracy.

Since the toppling of the Marcos regime in 1986 and the Estrada administration in 2001, Filipinos have developed a strong itch to cut short the terms of regimes either through extra-legal means (such as two People Power risings) or in the case of Estrada, through impeachment trial that triggered Edsa II.

Attack shifts

And now, the target of attack has shifted from the presidency to the Supreme Court.

The constitutional initiation stage for impeachment is the House of Representatives, and in the case of the Davide impeachment, the assault is directed at the Supreme Court, the most defenseless of the three co-equal organs of government.

This shift of target is what makes this clash between the House and the Supreme Court different from other constitutional conflicts involving separation of powers.

The assault on the Supreme Court highlights the awkwardness into which the conflict has pushed the court. The court holds the constitutional mandate of being the arbiter of constitutional conflict involving separation of powers.

An attack on the court mounted from the House, which initiated the second impeachment complaint, perforce puts it in the awkward position of having to defend itself from what the Chief Justice perceives to be a breach of the court's independence.

The Chief Justice has defended stoutly the court's territory and jurisdiction when he questioned the constitutionality of the second complaint. Those who initiated the complaint in the House have criticized the Chief Justice for his views invoking the constitutional defenses shielding the court from encroachment from the two other departments, although at this stage, the executive department is not the aggressor.

If the court's arbiter role in the constitutional scheme of checks and balances is being attacked, the iron law of the survival requires even institutions to defend themselves by asserting themselves with the constitutional weapons available to them.

Like a state or regime under attack by, for example, a military coup d'état, the court has the right to defend itself and even use its power and mandate to pronounce on the constitutional issues, including those involving the court itself and the Chief Justice.

Feeble argument

The argument that when the court issues resolutions and judgments on such constitutional issues is self-serving is a feeble argument.

If, for example, the court does not issue a ruling on the petitions questioning the constitutionality of the transmittal of the second complaint to the Senate, who then is the authoritative institution to declare what the law is ?

Clearly not Congress nor its individual members. The failure of the court to rule on the issue of transmittal would constitute an abandonment of its constitutional function and responsibility as the final arbiter of constitutional conflict, a function that is now being hijacked by a pack of audacious congressional adventurers who have mounted the first onslaught on the Supreme Court in the history of Philippine democracy, in the guise of exercising Congress' power of oversight in the disbursement of public funds and in asserting its investigative powers "in aid of legislation"—a notion that has seen much abuse and mauling at the hands of Congress.

A Supreme Court, with its armory of constitutional weapons and resources in determining breaches of walls dividing the three departments, that cannot defend itself and cannot deploy its weapons, is a pathetic court.

Against the claim of the initiators of the impeachment complaint that the "arrogance" of the Chief Justice in defending the court's territory from encroachment provoked the launching of the complaint, the Chief Justice raised a constitutional principle based on judicial autonomy from capricious and reckless investigations of its affairs.

The invocation of this principle was in response to the investigation into the JDF which in the course of the hearings of the House committee on justice appeared to be heading not toward an inquiry "in aid of legislation" but toward an expedition to uncover evidence to establish a basis for the impeachment complaint.

Inquisitorial

From the manner of questioning in the committee of the auditors and representatives of the court, the Chief Justice noted that the questioning was getting to be inquisitorial.

It is a well known fact that congressional investigations are a harassing exercise in which members of Congress do not miss a chance to humiliate and embarrass their invited resource persons.

The Chief Justice saw through this abuse of the congressional power of oversight. By instructing court officials not to submit to this humiliating procedure, the Chief Justice acted to defend the court from being subjected to indignities that members of Congress have routinely heaped on those summoned to its hearings.

In this conflict between the Supreme Court and the House, the history of legislative abuses in investigations, hearings on the budget and even confirmation of presidential appointments galvanizes public opinion against the House.

This is why Davide and the court have become the rallying point against the abuses of the legislature. The impeachment complaint has become the catalyst of the issue of congressional abuses—an issue which is as important as the constitutional questions and the substance of the complaint itself.

'Jueteng' alive but task force dead

From page A1

words again.

Lina has abolished the Department of Interior and Local Government's Task Force Jericho after six months of trying to wipe out jueteng and other forms of illegal gambling in the country. The abolition took effect on Nov. 1.

Last year, Lina said he would resign if he could not curb illegal gambling in one year. His deadline expired on May 6 but nothing was heard from him. Rumors were swirling at the time that he was on his way out because he was purportedly not making "big strides" in the anti-crime and illegal gambling fronts.

Lina sacked seven top Philippine National Police officials, including Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay and Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, in July 2002 because jueteng allegedly flourished in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

The interior secretary adopted a "strike-three-and-you're-out" policy that called for the relief of police commanders following three successful operations against jueteng conducted by a separate unit in their jurisdiction.

Jericho leader Chief Supt. Manuel Cabigon yesterday came to Lina's defense, explaining that while jueteng may still be here, it has been substantially reduced.

"It was really an uphill battle because the jueteng culture is already embedded, especially in Luzon," he told the INQUIRER.

Cabigon explained that Jericho was abolished not because of its purported failure. "It was really intended to last only for six months and it had done its job."

Under the PNP Reform Law, the official said the task force would serve to prepare local executives for their primary responsibility to curb illegal gambling.

In the course of its operations, Jericho had some of its men slapped with criminal and administrative charges for their alleged involvement in illegal activities such as extortion. Cabigon said these cases were commonplace for a group tasked with a very complicated job.

With the campaign now resting solely on the shoulders of local governments, he warned that jueteng might proliferate with the coming 2004 elections.

"It's possible that jueteng would stage a comeback because the elections are near," Cabigon said. "Of course, where would some unscrupulous candidates get their campaign funds?"

Jueteng in Nueva Ecija

Jueteng continues to thrive in many parts of Nueva Vizcaya, belying police officials' claim that the illegal numbers game has been stopped.

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed that jueteng draws were held in almost every town in the province twice or thrice daily.

Police officials admit that "guerrilla" (clandestine) or "small-scale" operations have continued with the use of tactics that operators have devised for *cobradores* (bet collectors) and *cabos* (head collectors) to evade arrest.

"Bet collections and draws are now being done discreetly on the outskirts of the town, where (jueteng personnel) would not invite attention," said Supt. Prudencio de la Cruz, deputy provincial police director.

The operation is also called "kangaroo" type as draws and remittances leap from one venue to another, said De la Cruz, who also heads the anti-jueteng task force in Nueva Vizcaya.

"The exact place of remittance is relayed by the manager to *cabos* through text messages at the last possible minute to avoid any leak," he said.

Once they met, bet money changes hands. The winning number is announced and they quickly disperse and disappear, "all these happening in just a few minutes," De la Cruz said. "They may be wily, but we'll get them," he said.

The resurgence of jueteng has continued to haunt police officials, who are facing prospects of relief.

Earlier, Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani asked Lina to relieve Senior Supt. Jesus Manubay, police provincial director. *With a report from Nelson Flores*

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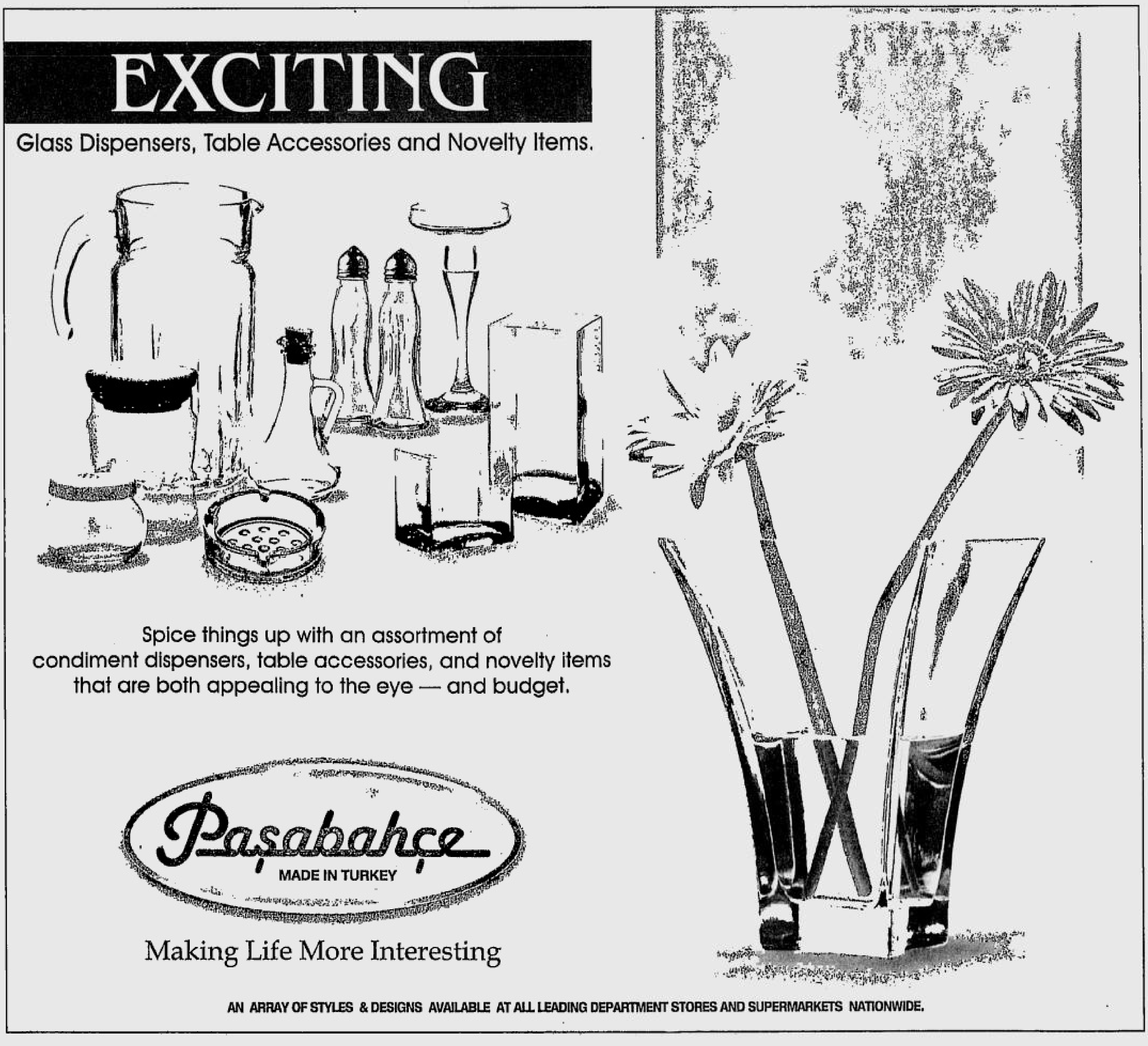
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House tells SC: We are not under you

From page A1

it provides an impartial analysis of how the JDF funds were disbursed.

"If our lawmakers would agree to toss back the issue to the (House) committee on justice where they could review the COA report again without muddling the issue and creating less trouble for society, [then that's good]. The COA is the constitutional body authorized to audit all three branches of government and its findings are respected by the public," Bunye said.

"They (the pro-impeachment congressmen) can revive their complaint if they do not agree with the COA findings."

Position paper

Suplico said the House's position paper would deal with four basic principles.

First, the 1987 Constitution provides for the accountability of public officials and the mode of impeachment for such officials as the Chief Justice.

Second, the separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judiciary also involves the principle of checks and balances between the three co-equal branches of government.

Third, the initiation of impeachment complaints is the exclusive jurisdiction of the House as provided for under the Constitution.

Fourth, "impeachment as a remedy has been conferred upon the House by the sovereign people as a way to check public officials."

De Venecia said sole reliance on the separation of powers to stop the transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment against Davide to the Senate was a limited view of what the Constitution intended.

"Separation of powers should not be misconstrued as having the three great co-equal branches going separate ways," he said.

In his radio interview, Bunye pressed the House leadership to consider bringing the issue back to the committee level. In the meantime, he said, the scheduled oral arguments for the case on Nov. 5 "should be good for a better understanding of the issues."

Lakas members

Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez said the party leadership had succeeded in convincing five more members to drop their names from the impeachment complaint, but he did not name them in deference to the members' request for anonymity until Congress resumes session on Nov. 10.

The five were in addition to the five Lakas members—Manila Rep. Ernesto Nieva, Tawi-Tawi Rep. Soraya Jaafar, Bulacan Rep. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado, Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan and Bulacan Rep. Reynila Nicolas—who had already withdrawn their signatures.

Other Lakas congressmen who signed the complaint were Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano Jr., Marikina Rep. Del de Guzman, Masbate Rep. Rida Espinosa, Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Carlos Lacson, Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras, Albay Rep. Jose Sarte Salceda, Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis, Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo, Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco, Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves, Nueva Ecija Rep. Aurelio Umali and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

But House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla (LDP, Nueva Vizcaya) said that, as of his latest count, 88 members of the House would still not withdraw their signatures.

Noting that he was the 95th signatory, Padilla said that seven congressmen had already backed out. He did not identify them.

"The impeachment of Davide was a conscience vote by each signatory and no amount of pressure will make me back down," Padilla said.

Suplico said he was confident that the "minimum requirement of 76 signatories will hold."

Under the rules, a vote by at least one-third or 76 of the 226-strong House immediately converts an impeachment complaint into Articles of Impeachment and it is automatically deemed transmitted to the Senate upon a motion on the floor.

Rep. Michael John Duavit (NPC, Rizal) said that the Nationalist People's Coalition, which spearheaded the impeachment complaint, was holding firm.

"There was no change of mind by any member of the NPC and there will never be," Duavit said.

De Venecia's job

Other members of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats party took offense at the claim by anti-impeachment Rep. Antonio Cuenco (Promdi, Cebu City) that De Venecia would be unseated as Speaker if he allowed the Davide impeachment complaint to reach the Senate.

"The Speaker's post is not at stake here. Speaker De Venecia is in no danger," said Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City).

Albano said De Venecia was merely implementing the consensus of the House's multi-party caucus last week, when House leaders agreed not to recognize the high court's jurisdiction.

Albano also said it was the House's decision to transmit the Articles of Impeachment when Congress resumes sessions on Nov. 10.

Syjuco said: "To infer that impeachment is a party issue is to inject political partisanship in what should be the act of an individual."

Padilla noted that the tribunal's status quo order "only solidified the House's resolve to protect its power of impeachment."

"Even those who originally did not sign actually signed later, when the Supreme Court stopped us from transmitting the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate," Padilla said.

Crisis provides opportunity for reunions

From page A1

brother Bryan, whose posts as co-chair of the Supreme Court Halls of Justice committee and vice chair of the bids and awards committee have been a focal point in the current allegations of irregularities hurled against their father.

Rodrigo "Jing" Lachica, a consultant at a multilateral development agency, is coordinating the circulation of text messages and e-mails calling on congressmen to withdraw their signatures from the Davide impeachment papers.

Two decades ago, Lachica said, no one would even think that this bunch of happy-go-lucky guys would one day be bound by an issue of national interest.

A native of Mindanao, Lachica revealed that one of their "targets" is Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel "Migs" Zubiri, among the 17 members of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats who signed the complaint.

Zubiri, also a UP graduate and already a Lakas stalwart at age 34, holds the distinction of being the only sitting congressman to have signed four impeachment complaints—those against President Joseph Estrada, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, Elections Commissioner Luzviminda Tangcangco and Davide.

Another target is Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio of South Cotabato, who helped gather signatures for Davide's impeachment.

According to Lachica, he is also in close touch with the UP Brotherhood of the Filipinos or "Pinoy," a fraternity in which he, Hilario III and Bryan are members.

Em Butalid, a Pinoy "brod," has set up two pro-Davide websites—http://www.rpweb.ph/davide.htm, and http://www.philso1.nl/L-Davide.htm. The Redjecks have their own e-mail group, redjecks@yahoogroups.com, which circulates information and updates to other e-mail groups.

Redjeck Erwin Mutuc, former investment banker, is using his "extensive network in the business and finance community" to recruit more campaign participants.

Rei Cendeno, who founded Pinoy in 1955, said of Bryan: "He has been very careful but transparent in his relationship with friends and colleagues." Another frat brod, Jorge Navarra, added: "He is very much unlike (those other children) of rich and powerful officials, who flaunt their influence."

Passionate defense

Lachica said all the Redjecks and Pinoy brods, both here and abroad, had expressed "strong support" for the defense of the Davides.

For starters, he said, "They have vowed to abstain from SMC products, particularly San Miguel beer."

SMC is the flagship company of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., whose Nationalist People's Coalition spearheaded the impeachment.

Lachica said his passionate defense of the Chief Justice was partly due to having witnessed the Davides' simple lifestyle.

While he and Hilario III were still students, Lachica recounted, he once stopped over at the Davide residence in Cebu on his way home to South Cotabato. The elder Davide, an assemblyman at the time, was entertaining visitors, mostly farmers and poor people seeking legal advice.

"They brought bananas, live native chicken and other farm products for him," Lachica recounted. "I could see how proud and grateful they were to have someone like Davide on their side."

Also yesterday, members of the academic community of De La Salle University condemned the Davide impeachment as "an act of treason against the Filipino people."

In a statement sent to media establishments, members of the DLSU administration, faculty, student council, employees' association, and parents' organization said: "We ... stand firmly in defense of the Constitution and the rule of law. The Constitution is clear that the second impeachment ... cannot be processed until a year from now."

The congressmen who impeached the Chief Justice not only ignored the law but "attempted to subvert" it, they said.

Attached to the statement were 12 pages of signatures.

For 'Dodong'

Argaoanons in Cebu took advantage of the holiday weekend and collected signatures at the municipal cemetery for a manifesto supporting Davide, Argao's "favorite son."

Davide hails from Bgy. Colawin 66 kilometers from Cebu City.

Town Mayor Wilfredo Caminero said they made good use of the two-day celebration, when most Argaoanons were sure to be at the municipal cemetery.

Earlier, Caminero was assisted by the church and several private organizations on Oct. 29 in mounting a prayer rally at the town plaza.

Caminero said he hoped to gather at least 30,000 signatures out of Argao's population of 66,000. The signatures will be sent to the SC and House of Representatives.

On Saturday and yesterday, the cemetery was festooned with streamers that read, "We are behind you, Dodong Jun!"

Also from Cebu City, the Alliance of Court Employees Association of the Philippines (Aceap), through their president Jojo Guerrero, denied that his group had asked Congress to investigate alleged irregularities in the JDF, as the impeachment signatories claimed earlier.

Executive Judge Pampio Abarintos of the Cebu Regional Trial Court said his employees were not complaining about the JDF. He said leaders of the six Cebu RTC employees' organizations—court sheriffs, stenographers, clerks of court, clerks, court interpreters and the rank-and-file—told him that their grievance was focused on salary increases, not the Cost of Living Allowance said to have been taken from the JDF.

Mindanao connection

Two former classmates—Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong and Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina—were also among the first to "quietly" take the side of the beleaguered Chief Justice.

From Cotabato, Datumanong talked to the INQUIRER by phone on Saturday and warned of a possible military takeover—exactly what Davide foresaw—if the crisis was not resolved by Nov. 10.

Datumanong said he and Baterina had both rebutted opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s opinion that the Senate as an impeachment court was "higher than the Supreme Court."

"The Supreme Court is the highest court," Datumanong maintained. "The impeachment court is not even a regular court; it is a quasi-judicial body."

Breaking the executive tradition of not issuing a statement before his opinion as Justice secretary was sought, he had declared early on that the second impeachment complaint launched by the NPC congressmen "did not sit well with the 1987 Constitution."

Baterina, Datumanong disclosed, also went ahead of the House transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment, by filing a petition before the Supreme Court questioning the constitutionality of the second complaint.

Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, incumbent Liberal Party president, was the only other congressman who joined Baterina in filing the petition.

Back in their days at the UP College of Law, Datumanong recalled, Baterina, the late Sen. Rene Cayetano, Davide and himself had been seated close to one another owing to their surnames.

Since the start of the crisis, Datumanong said, he had renewed contact with Davide, "although I don't want to drag the department into a controversy since I'm going to leave here anytime."

By this he meant before the 2004 elections, since he was set to run again for Congress as representative of Maguindanao.

So where's our money? . . .

From page A1

ports that court employees were going on a mass walkout today to press for the trial of Davide.

"The employees will be pleasantly surprised to discover that during the watch of the Davide court, the welfare of the court employees had been uppermost in the high court's mind in the management and disbursement of the JDF," Abad said.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Loreta Ann Rosales said that she was in possession of the same COA report held by Abad and that she intended to furnish it to pro-impeachment congressmen.

Rosales said: "These COA documents will help congressmen decide and make a dignified decision to withdraw their signatures."

Cola increases

In a statement, Abad said that employees receiving a Cola of P6,000, P5,800 and P5,500 in 1995 got P52,5000, P49,5000 and P46,500 in 2000.

Abad said that based on the COA report, 129 percent of the JDF for year 2000 was used to augment the allowances of court employees.

Under the law creating the JDF, 80 percent of the fund should go to employee allowances and 20 percent for court facilities and equipment.

"And in the three-year period covering 2000-2002, disbursements for Cola averaged 89 per cent, which is way above the minimum 80 percent required by law," Abad said.

Abad also said that even employees of the Halls of Justice, who didn't receive allowances before, actually got the equivalent of 50 per cent of the highest Cola received by employees.

Abad said that aside from bigger benefits, the Davide court had also made disbursements on a more frequent basis compared to the past practice of releasing the Cola on a yearly basis.

Abad said that releases were now made on either a monthly or quarterly basis.

Abad also pointed out that collections for the JDF grew under Davide's watch, which were previously based only on legal fees.

Abad said that JDF collections now include rentals of facilities, interests on deposits, bar examinations fees and proceeds of sale of Supreme Court publications.

But the Aceap executive committee said it wanted to know why benefits such as rice and medical allowance and hazard pay had been discontinued, while their amelioration pay and JDF allowance reduced.

"This happened despite the fact that the filing fees have been increased and correspondingly, the 80% minimum share for members and personnel of the judiciary increased," the Aceap statement read.

"We regret that our simple demand for truth and justice has been relegated to the background, such that today, we have been reduced as mere pawns in the current partisan struggles of the most powerful elites in our country.

Win-win

The employee representatives said they were open to a "win-win" solution to avert the constitutional crisis caused by the second impeachment complaint against Davide.

The solution, they said, need only be "principled" such that it would make the "voice of the 25,000 rank-and-file employees of the judiciary heard and the injustice done to us rectified."

The Supreme Court's spokesperson Ismael Khan Jr. was busy yesterday denying charges raised by pro-impeachment congressmen that the high court had bought luxury cars.

"I don't know about the interval. The Supreme Court did purchase vehicles, but the Commission on Audit ruled that these were not luxury cars," Khan said.

He noted in particular the purchase of a Toyota Camry, which the COA said was not a luxury car.

He said that the COA had noted that while the justices could buy so-called luxury cars, they did not take advantage of this option "as befitting the dignity of their office."

Khan said the figures the congressmen were brandishing were incorrect, adding that he did not know where they got them.

Rep. Rodolfo Plaza (NPC, Agusan del Sur) yesterday alleged that the tribunal went on a P31-million "buying binge" between 2000 and 2002.

The purchase of cars is the fourth "C" raised by Plaza and fellow pro-impeachment lawmakers after exposing alleged anomalies by the SC in the acquisition of expensive curtains, luxurious chairs and the construction and renovation of American-style cottages in Baguio City.

Plaza said that 19 luxury vehicles were bought through the JDF. These included one Nissan Cefiro (P1.5 million); two Toyota Camrys (P1.3 million each); 10 units of "fully-loaded" Toyota Super Grandia vans (P1.2 million each); two Mitsubishi Versa vans (P690,000 each); one Hino bus (P4.2 million); two "shuttle vehicles" (P2.6 million each); and another bus worth P4.2 million.

In their 28-page impeachment complaint, congressmen said that the purchase of curtains, cars, chairs and cottages constituted a "crime punishable under Article 220 of the Revised Penal Code which punishes the illegal use of public funds or property."

Rep. Rolex Suplico (LDP, Iloilo) said the Supreme Court could just have included the car purchases in their yearly budget proposal. *With a report from Philip Tubeza*

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70-foot hole on Edsa turns into grave for 8

By Luige del Puerto
and Christine Paita

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. yesterday asked the City Engineer's Office to suspend the building permit of the construction firm that dug a 70-foot hole on Edsa, where a jeepney filled with passengers fell on Saturday night.

But Abalos clarified that based on city documents, Globe Asiatic followed all the rules set by the national building code when it started digging the foundation of a condominium, a joint venture between the firm and Pag-Ibig.

"I have asked the city engineer to suspend for the moment the building permit of Globe Asiatic until after a thorough investigation is concluded," he said in a phone interview.

At around 9 p.m. Saturday, the driver of the jeepney lost control of the vehicle after it was sideswiped by a speeding mini-bus on Edsa, according to one of the survivors.

The 13 passengers of the southbound jeepney came from a religious gathering in Cubao, Quezon City.

The jeepney then went over the gutter and plunged into the construction site, which was deep enough to bury a five-story building, police said.

Eight people died in the accident—Ernesto Ricamara, Ignacia Ricamara, jeepney driver Reynaldo Destura, 39, Salvacion Destura, 61, Rey Ryan Destura, 9, Veronica Guiyab, 47, Romulo Jacatane and Lilibeth Galang, 42.

Miraculously, Clarence Destura, 7, Ronald Falleria, 38, Divine Guiyab, 14, Daniel Guiyab, 5, and Reggie Abella, 23, survived the fall, police said.

Reynaldo Dongal of Barangay Malamig said that when he got to the site, the driver was still alive and even asked for oxygen. The driver later died.

Ernesto Ricamara was the first to be pulled out of the wreckage, but he too died, police said.

Rescue groups from the Metro Manila Development Authority, the Philippine Red Cross, as well as residents from Barangay Wack Wack in Mandaluyong and Barangay Ugong in Pasig City responded to the call for help.

According to Traffic Operations Director Angelito Vergel de Dios, the MMDA rescue team arrived in the area as soon as the report came out.

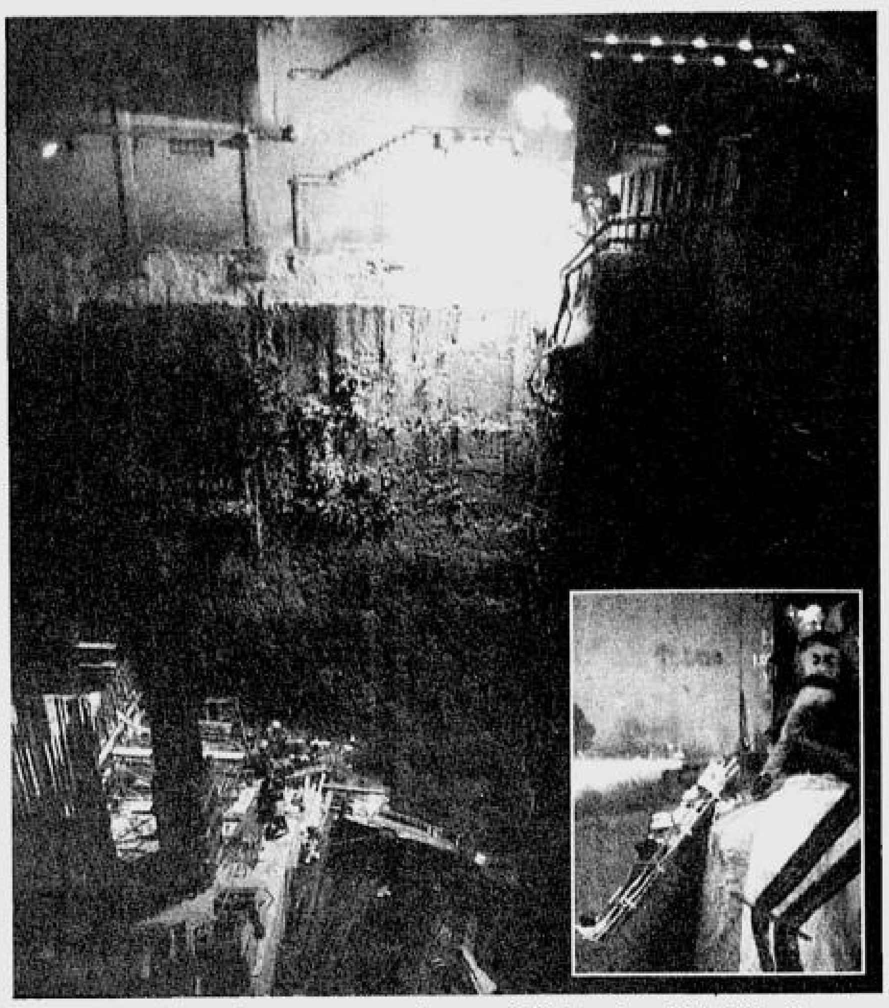
According to SP02 Pablo Roxas of the Mandaluyong police, it took the rescuers an hour to hoist the first survivor, Clarence Destura, 7.

Roxas said the rescuers rappelled down the shaft and used an improvised ladder to hoist the victims.

By midnight, all the victims had been retrieved, Vergel de Dios said.

Mandaluyong will provide P20,000 for each victim.

The INQUIRER learned that this was not the first time a vehicle had an accident at the site. Patricio Yadao Jr., a guard at the work site, said that two weeks ago, a bus lost its brakes and slammed into their gate. *With a report from Edgar Allan Sembrano, trainee*



THIS hole on Edsa, where a passenger jeepney fell Saturday night, killing 8 passengers, is deep enough to fit a 5-story building. Inset, rescuers hoist one of the victims.

BOY CABRIDO

Manila goes after illegal...

From page A24

ago but they suddenly stopped. They appear to have become slack in their improvement plan. They should restore their accelerated improvement of the water pipes," said Atienza.

Alunan said that the substandard pipes which now bring water to households in Tondo were installed 30 years ago by National Housing Authority.

He stressed that about 20 repair teams had been deployed to repair 235 reported pipe leaks from these pipes and were digging up and disconnecting illegal connections, some of which pass through drainage ditches beside Maynilad's main pipe.

On Oct. 23, residents from Velasquez, Raxabago, Tayabas, Capulong and other adjoining streets began pouring in to hospitals, complaining of vomiting, loose bowel movement and headaches.

Silence returns to cemeteries

From page A24

Gilda Diño, 50, said that she had been selling food annually at the same cemetery since she was 10 and this year was the worst time for sales.

While the number of graves increased, she said, her earnings decreased.

Even tricycle driver Dan, 40, was disappointed that he only made P400 last Saturday. It was half of what he made last year.

"More cemetery-goers chose to walk instead," he related.

What did not lack in the cemetery was trash that made the already narrow pathways a lot less passable.

2 months in punishment cell

By Margaux Ortiz

"WHY IS he still inside the bartolina?"

The wife of drug convict Wu Tuan Yuan, also known as Peter Co, said that even though the Muntinlupa City court already ordered the release of her husband from solitary confinement, Co still remained inside the disciplinary cell.

Lily Liu, through a spokesperson, said Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court Branch 207 had ordered the immediate return of Co to his cell at Building 13 for lack of due process in placing him in solitary confinement.

In addition, she said, the court had directed prison officials to subject Co to a medical examination at the New Bilibid Prisons hospital.

Instead of complying, Bureau of Corrections (Bucor) officials filed a motion for reconsideration but the court denied this, according to Co's wife.

In the court order dated Oct. 9, Judge Philip Aguinaldo gave weight to Co's position that his transfer from a "population atmosphere" to a bartolina was "considered punishment."

It also threw out the claim of the Bucor that it was Co who requested his transfer to the disciplinary cell.

Co was placed in solitary confinement after prison officials allegedly found illegal drugs in his possession.

Liu said that Bucor officials should just adhere to the court's decision instead of consistently contesting it out of pride.

"My husband does not deserve to suffer inside the cramped bartolina, where he is denied visitors," Liu implored. "I'm asking the Bucor officials to have a heart and return him to Building 13."

The INQUIRER tried to reach Bucor Chief Dionisio Santiago and Supt. Francisco Abunales but, according to their secretaries, they were in Davao attending a conference.

METROBRIEFS

Brothers slain

DANTE Tabilon, 22, and his brother Benjie, 23, were stabbed to death in a rumble in Navotas Saturday night. PO2 Eric Roxas yesterday said that the brothers, along with a Mark Valenzuela and three other friends, had just come from the cemetery and were on their way home when they came upon 15 young men in front of the Daang Hari Elementary School at 11:45 p.m. Roxas said a certain "Baser" then tried to grab Valenzuela's bull cap, sparking a free-for-all. Responding lawmen arrested four suspects—Lito Candelario, 23, Jermel Candelario, 19, Christopher Nonan, 26 and a 14-year-old boy. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Murderous cousins

BARANGAY watchman Rey Gaviola was just doing his job when he tried to stop a fight among four cousins in Quezon City on Saturday night. But when Gaviola tried to pacify Jerry Librado, Roberto Librado, Edgardo Garidgid and Jojo Lubrigo inside their house on Kaunlaran Street, Barangay Commonwealth at about 11:30 p.m., the four men turned on the watchman and began mauling and stabbing him. Police managed to arrest Jerry, 31. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Thieves choose cab over P63

ANTONIO Aguilar yesterday morning had only P63 when two robbers boarded his taxi and announced a holdup in Sampaloc, Manila. When the suspects learned that he had only that much cash, the suspects pushed the victim out of his taxi, a Toyota Corolla (PXP 568), and drove off with the vehicle. Aguilar, 40, of Sapang Palay, Bulacan, told police that he could identify the suspects if he sees them again. *Tarra Quismundo*

In jail on All Saints'

JOSE Oracion, a cook at the the Makati Medical Center, found himself behind bars at the Makati Police Station on All Saints' Day after he reportedly lost his temper. Oracion, 53, of Cavite, was allegedly drunk when he used a kitchen knife to stab Edmund Isagon. Police said Isagon, a hospital security guard, accosted the cook and his friends when the victim learned that they were drinking in the dressing room of the dietary department. When the guard began questioning the men, Oracion got upset and stabbed Iragon in the face. *Christine Paita*

Mistaken identity

IN WHAT police described as a case of mistaken identity, Manuel Castro, 45, on Saturday night was killed by Jory Rufino, 35, who used a butcher's knife to stab the victim in the chest. PO2 Joseph Diño yesterday said that at about 11 p.m., Rufino got upset when his brother told him that someone aimed a gun at him. Already drunk, Rufino and a friend roamed Makabayan Street, Obrero, Quezon City and came upon Castro. Without a word, Rufino pulled out the knife, stabbed Castro, and casually walked away. When the neighbors learned of the incident, they cornered the suspect and beat him up before they turned him over to the police. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

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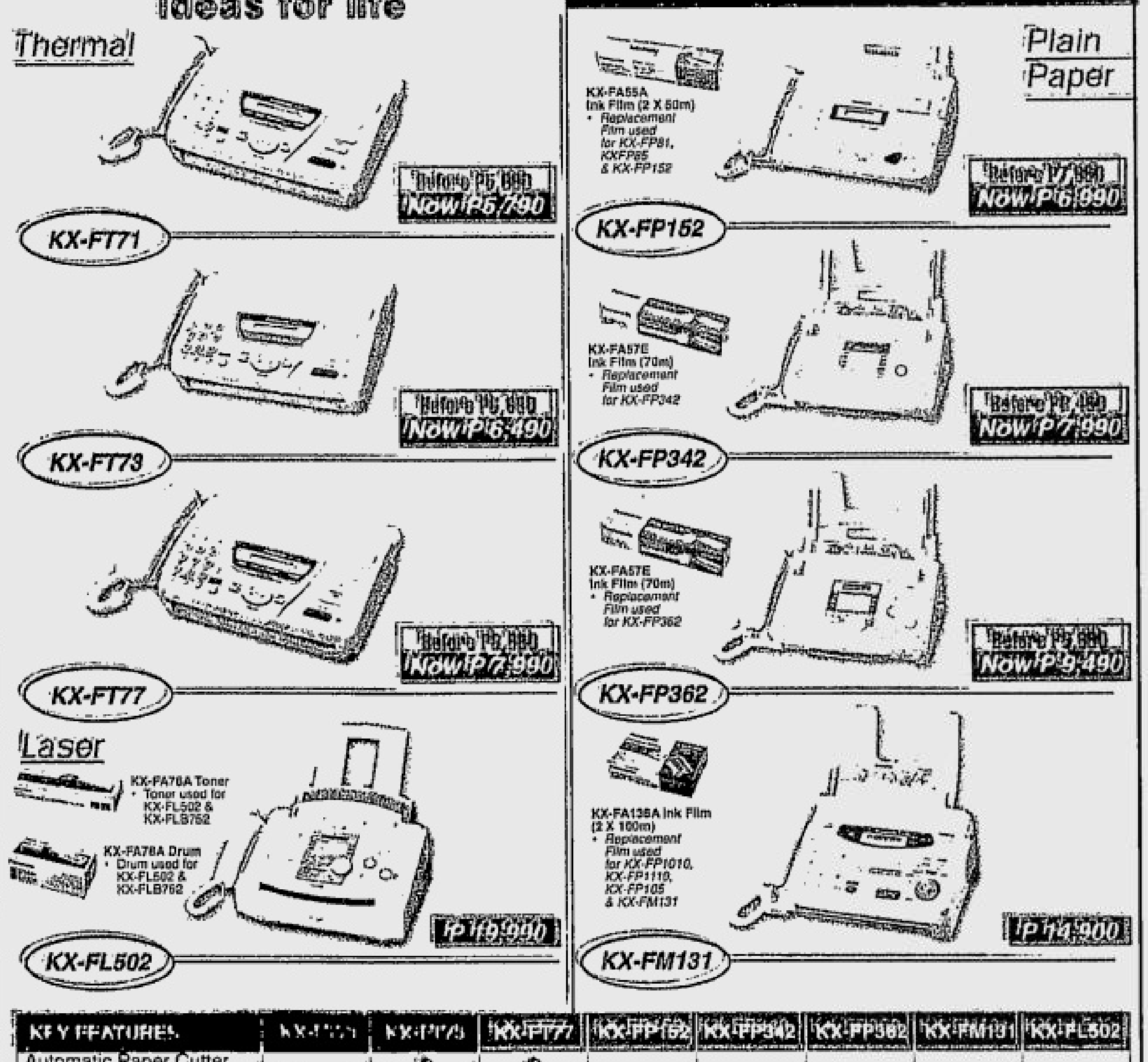

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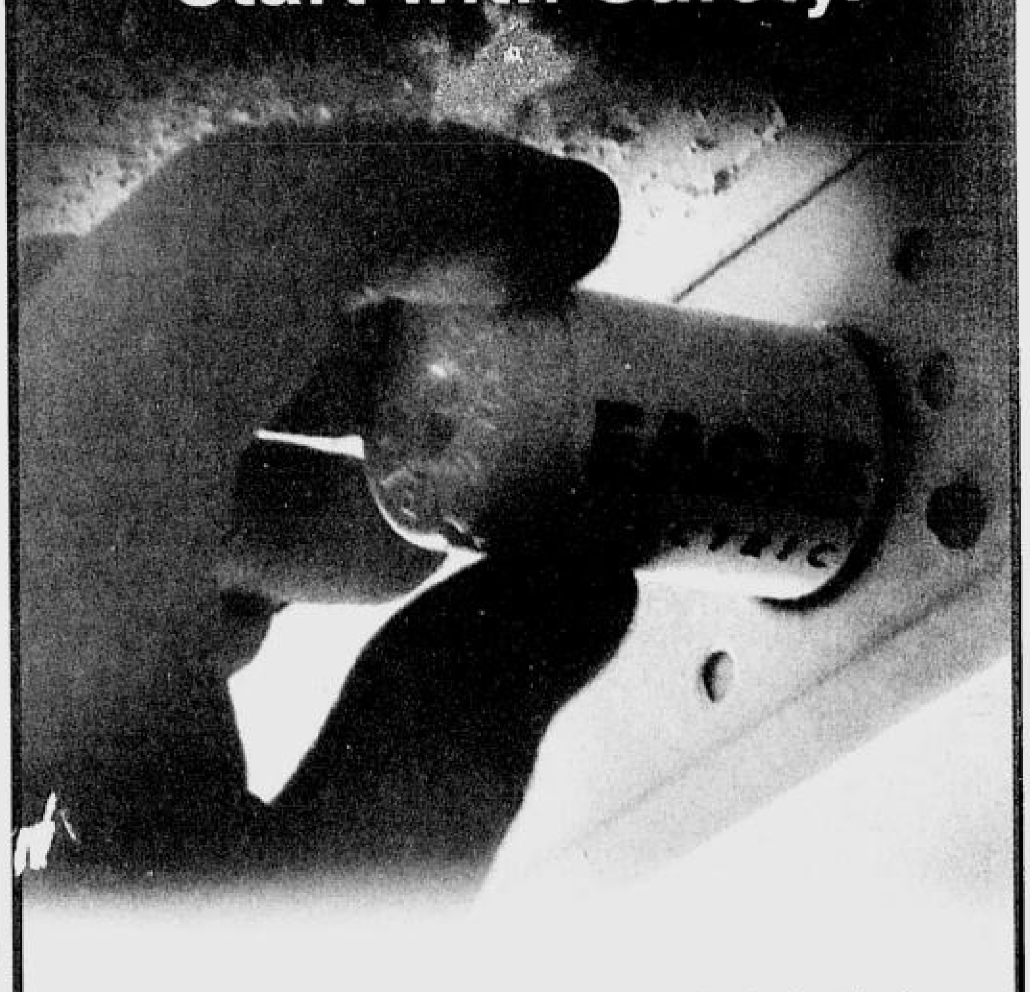

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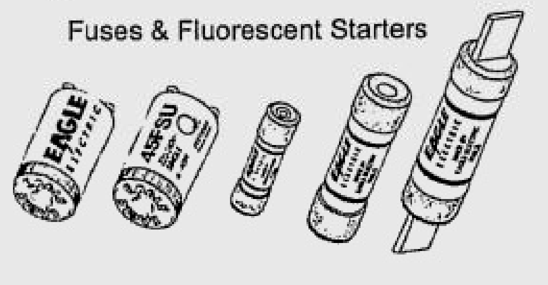

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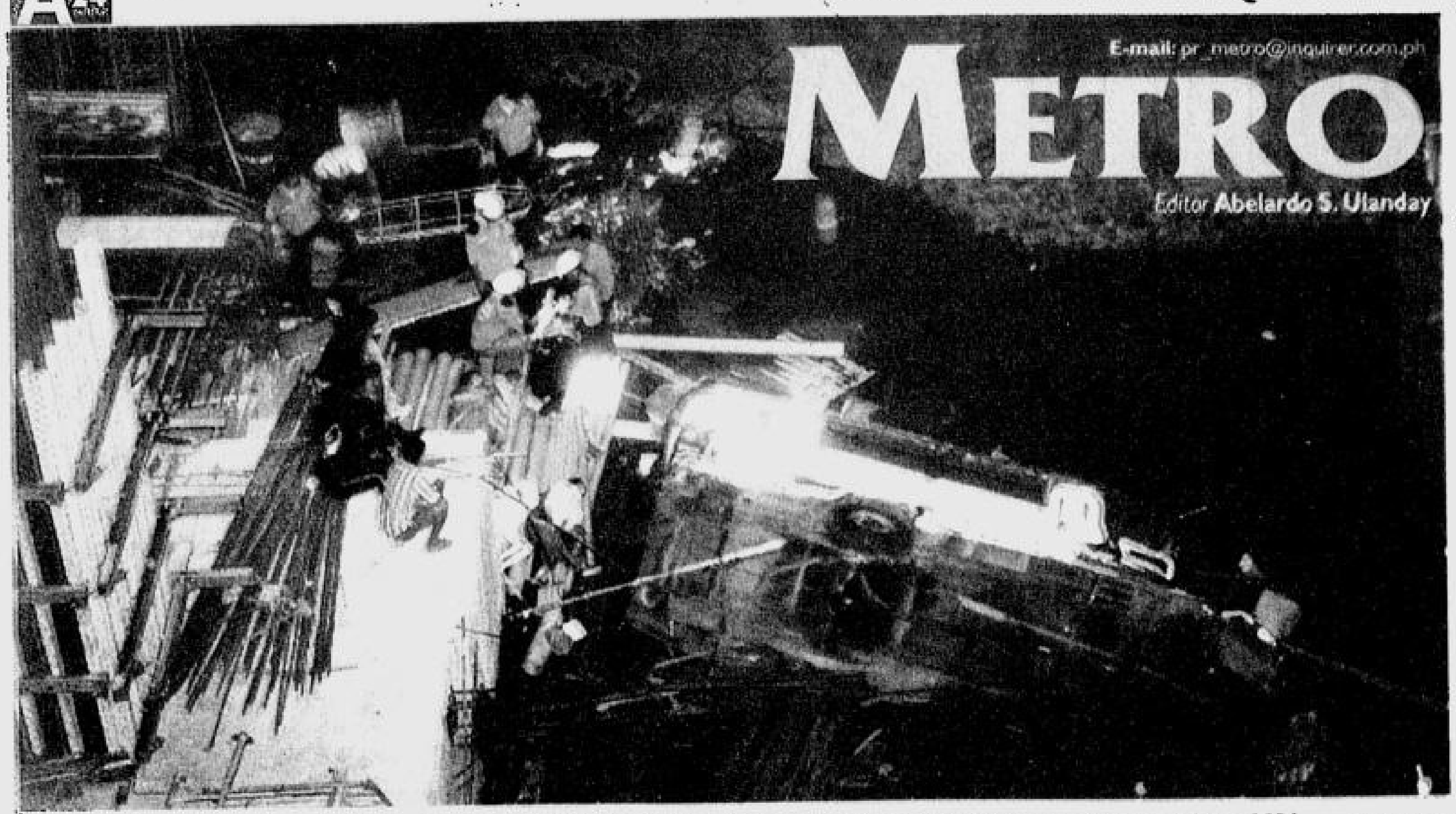


THE BODIES of victims lie amid debris after a jeepney they were in fell into a 70-foot hole in Madaluyong. (See story on Page A23.) BOY CABRIDO

SUERTRES 2 7 9
(In exact order)

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
11 16 27 34 37 42

MAYOR IRKED

Manila goes after illegal water taps

By Tarra Quismundo

IT TOOK four deaths and 339 people sickened by contaminated water for the Manila City government and the Maynilad Water Services Inc. to take drastic action against illegal water connections—the main reason behind the recent outbreak of acute gastrointestinal disease in Tondo.

"We do not want to be finger pointing at this point, but we expect Maynilad to stay on their toes," said Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza.

He had earlier said that he asks for "nothing short of a complete answer from Maynilad and Manila Health," on why the outbreak ever had to happen.

Maynilad said it already intensified repairs of reported leaks and illegal connections in the affected areas following the outbreak.

Maynilad President Rafael Alunan III said in a field inspection in Tondo last Friday that they would be disconnecting reported illegal connections in the area, "to the extent of our resources."

He also appealed to the government to assist Maynilad in implementing the law pertaining to water connections, adding that those who install illegal connections should be held accountable.

To this, Atienza said that City Hall would direct the Manila Health Department and the City Engineer's Office to strictly ensure that water line connections are legal and proper.

But the mayor also called on the Maynilad to be "conscious of their responsibilities as a water contractor," which includes maintaining the quality of water and keeping the water supply safe for drinking.

"They were very strong in implementing their water improvement program two years

MANILA/ A23

Silence returns to cemeteries

By Tarra Quismundo and Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE DEAD can now again rest in peace.

A month of anticipation and planning for the commemoration of the days of Saints and Souls have ended, and Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. is smiling about it.

"It was well-organized aside from some slight infractions," said Atienza, who made rounds of Manila's North and South Cemeteries Saturday.

The "slight infractions," according to Atienza, included three vehicles which managed to sneak into the South Cemetery.

Truckloads of garbage also piled up in these lands of the dead.

Despite these, Atienza said their planning for the annual event paid off. He congratulated the police for "a good job" in securing Manila's cemeteries.

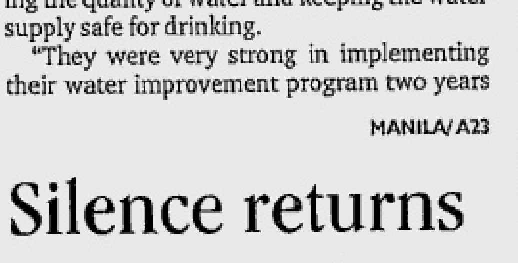
But not everybody is happy.

Fifty-year-old Manang Letty, a snacks and softdrinks vendor, lamented that "fewer" people went to the Sangandaan Cemetery in Caloocan City this year.

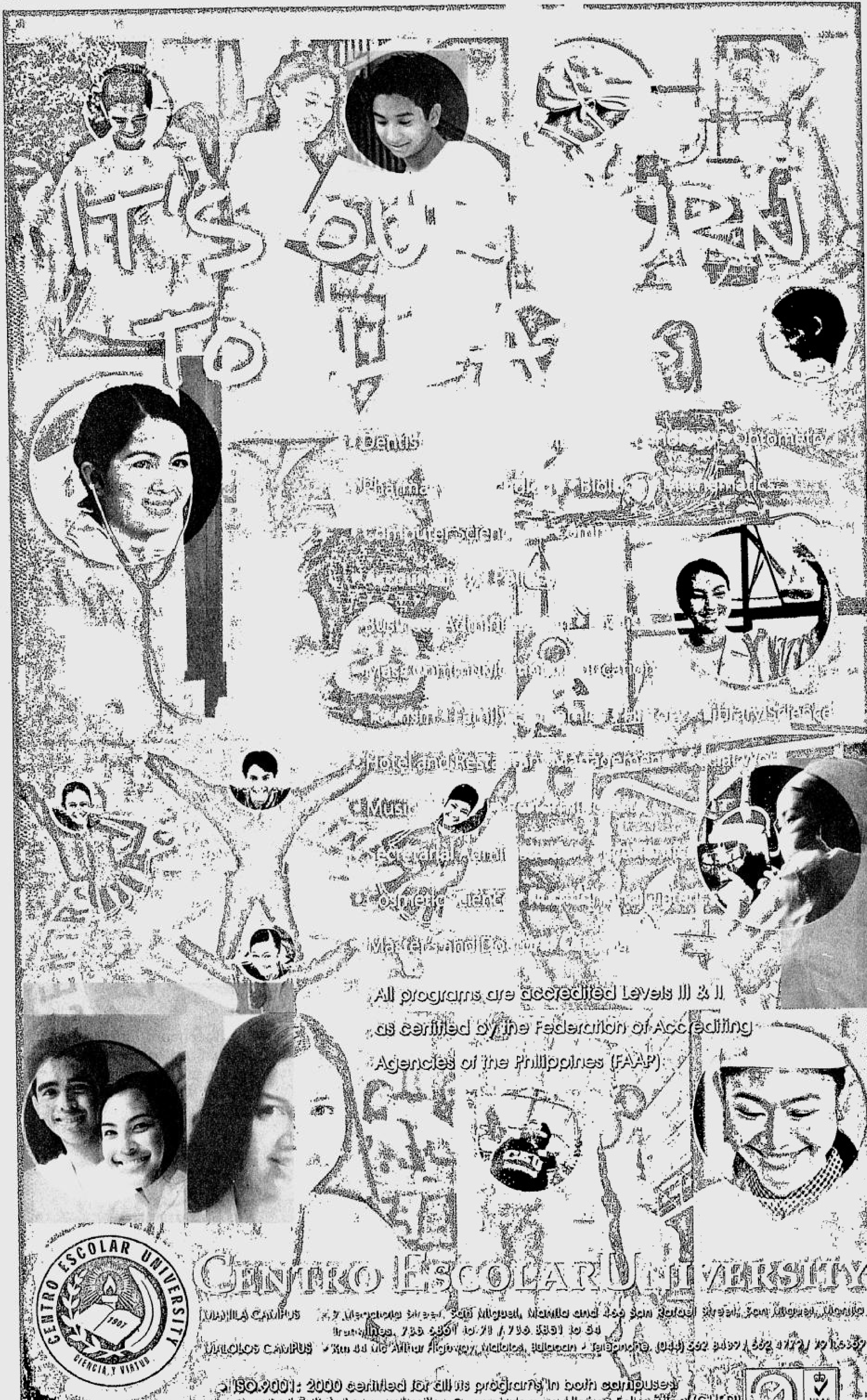
Last year, Letty said she sold 23 cases of soda. This year it barely reached 12 cases.

Worse, she lost three boxes of cigarettes to thieves.

SILENCE/ A23



CHILDREN raid tombs inside the North Cemetery for melted candles, which they will sell for recycling. ERIK ARAZAS



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Realtors stop late Beermen blitz

Adriano makes crucial steal as Sta. Lucia Realty lords it over in Group A

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
5 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk 'N Text
7:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Alaska

By June Navarro

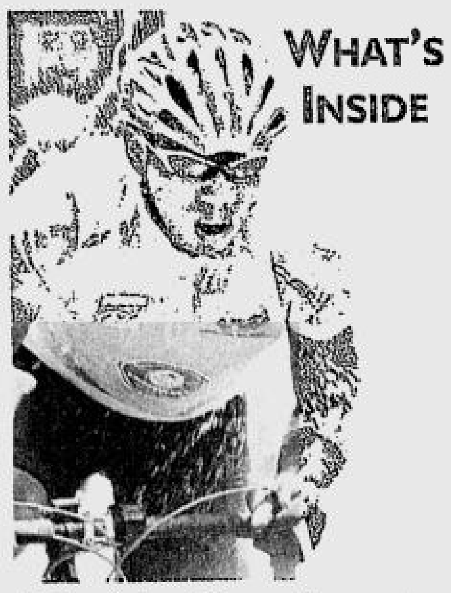
FRANCIS Adriano smothered Nic Belasco's potential overtime-sending triple as Sta. Lucia Realty turned back San Miguel Beer, 93-90, last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Adriano knocked the ball just as Belasco was about to launch a trey, paving the way for the Realtors to cement their claim of the top spot in Group A.

The Realtors finished the elimination round with an 8-5 record. They will meet the No. 4 squad in the same division in a best-of-three quarterfinal series.

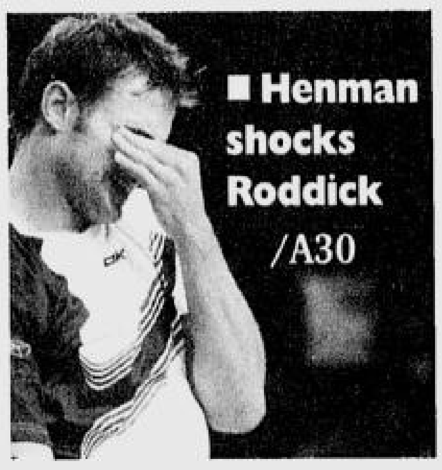
REALTORS/ A26

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ Quirimit heads cast of favorites /A27

■ Kobe returns to mix of boos, cheers /A28



■ Henman shocks Roddick /A30

SPORTS TV

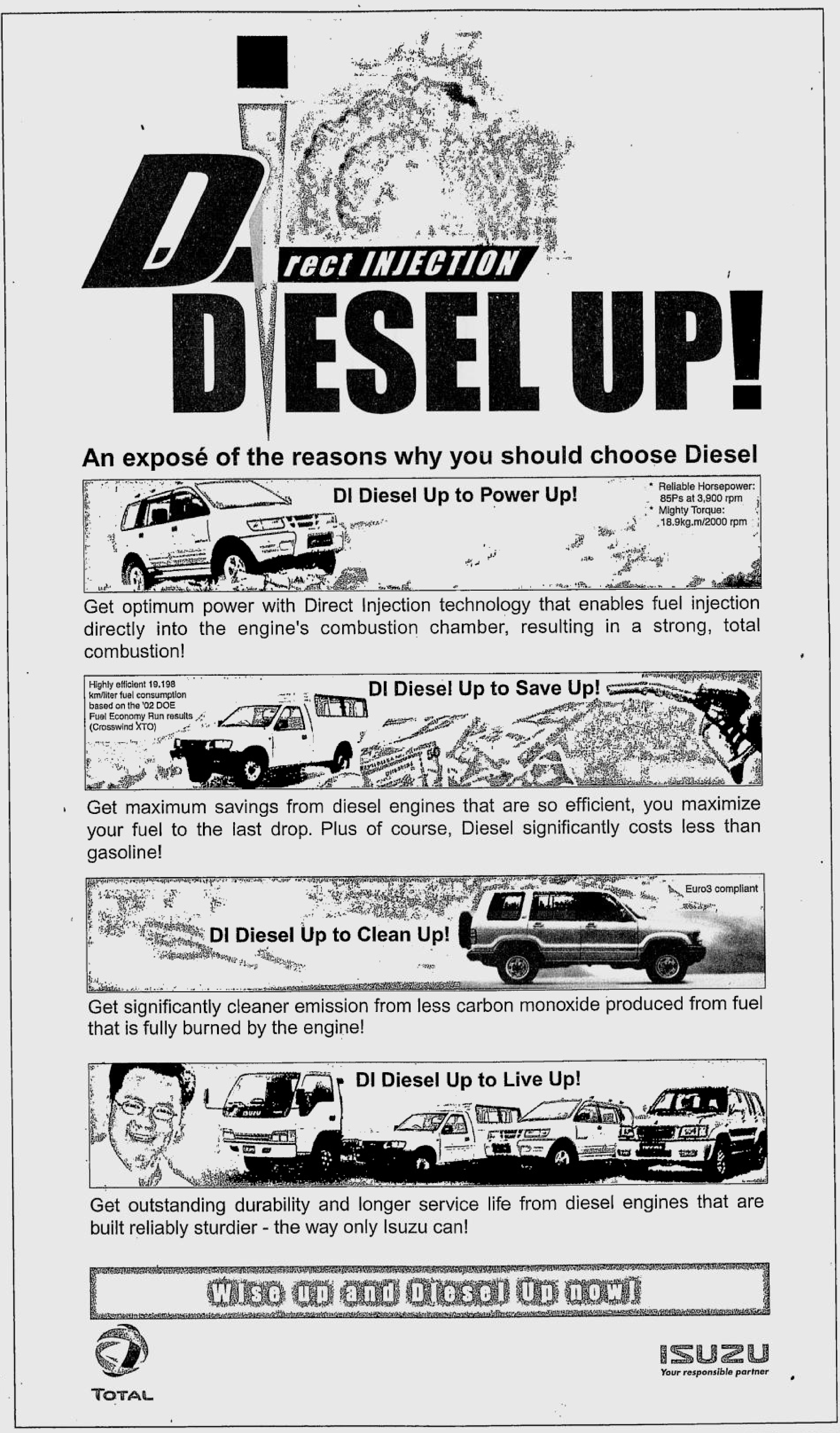
Compiled by L. Manguiat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Packers vs Vikings; 9:30 p.m. (r-5 p.m.); ESPN—NFC rivals Green Bay and Minnesota go at it once more.

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Games-Rockets vs Sixers, Game 5, 1977 Eastern Finals; 8:30 a.m.; Solar Sports—Houston and Philadelphia engage in a classic high-scoring playoff duel.

NBA-Warriors vs Lakers; 10:30 a.m. (r-10 p.m.); Solar Sports; 7 p.m.; IBC 13—Newly acquired Nick Van Exel leads Golden State.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



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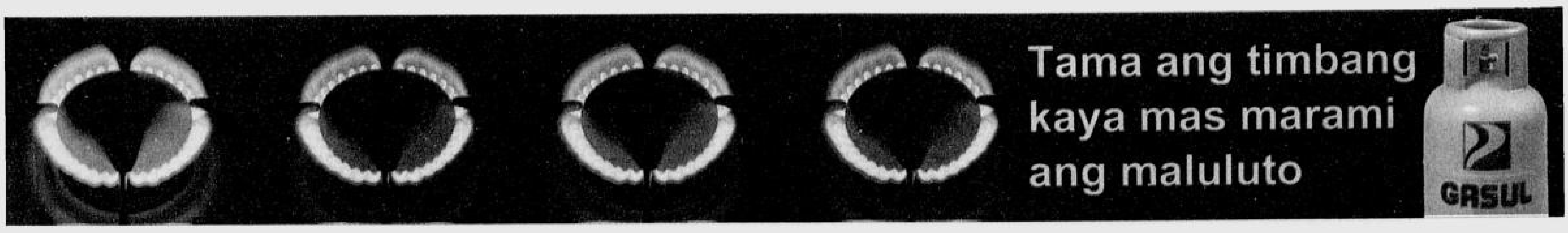

Tama ang timbang kaya mas marami ang maluluto
GASUL

Go named to Afro-Asian athletics council

GO: In elite company

HYDERABAD, India—Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok became a member of the Afro-Asian Joint Council for athletics here Saturday.

In a meeting between leaders of the Asian Athletic Association and the African Athletic Confederation, the two federations decided to constitute the Joint Council, with the president, senior vice president, secretary general and the vice presidents of both groups as members.

Go, being one of the Asian group's five vice presidents, made it to the body that would decide when and where the second stage of the just-concluded 1st Afro-Asian Games would be held.

"The creation of the Joint Council is intended to foster closer cooperation and liaison between the AAA and the AAC," said Go. "Combined, Afro-Asia would be a major power in world athletics."

The Joint Council, he added, agreed that the Afro-Asian Games will become a quadrennial event and that the next edition will be hosted by an African nation.

Go, who was chef de mission of the Asian contingent to the nine-day meet participated in by more than 3,500 athletes and officials, said the Joint Council will convene next year to discuss the salient aspects of the 2nd Afro-Asian Games and other competitions and activities between the two continents.

"Eventually, it (Joint Council) would pave the way for more tournaments from which our athletes would benefit in terms of exposure," said Go. "Imagine our tracksters competing against their counterparts from Kenya and the like; surely they'll learn and improve a lot."

India's Shri Suresh Kalmadi, 3A's president, presided over the Joint Council meeting at the Hotel Taj Khrisna. Also in attendance were AAC president Ahmed Maboum Kalkaba and International Amateur Athletic Federation representative for Africa Leonard Chuene.

The Philippines was among the 43 Asian and 54 African countries that competed in the Games, which closed Saturday at the GMC Balyogi Stadium here.

Boxer Harry Tañamor captured the gold in the lightfly division Friday to lift the Philippines to 15th overall in the medal tally dominated by China and India. The Filipinos also accounted for four silvers and 10 bronzes.

Realtors stop late Beermen counterattack

From page A25

Kenneth Duremdes rediscovered his fiery form and playmaker Jason Webb also sparkled as the Realtors sent the Beermen to their eighth setback in 13 games.

Duremdes paced the Realtors with 20 points, something the 1998 league MVP failed to do since recuperating from a calf injury at the start of the season-ending conference.

Duremdes clustered seven straight points during a 16-0 Sta. Lucia blast, bridging the third and fourth periods, including two charities that gave the Realtors a 72-71 lead, after trailing by as many as 11 points.

Webb spewed fire from the perimeter, sinking 10 of his 16 points in the final quarter to sustain the Realtors' fiery windup.

Marlou Aquino also shared the spotlight, adding 10 points and 15 rebounds to backstop Damian Owens, who had 18 markers and seven rebounds.

The Beermen seemed headed for a cruise as Kwan Johnson took over the scoring chores in the third quarter.

With Johnson attacking the hoop and scoring 9 of his 28 in that span, the Beermen raced to a 71-60 spread only to be caught flatfooted by the Realtors in the end.

Showing their readiness to pull the rug from under their rivals in the endgame, the Beermen cut the Realtors' nine-point margin with a rash of three-pointers in the final two minutes.

Olsen Racela buried two three-pointers, Johnson nailed a trey while Dorian Peña scored on an undergoal stab as the Beermen threatened, 93-90.

The Beermen, who played without Danny Ildefonso, had a chance to knot the count and send the game into overtime, but Belasco lost the ball to the wily Adriano with four seconds left.

Lenny Cooke tossed in 42 points, grabbed 26 rebounds and had nine assists and four steals as Purefoods drubbed Shell, 92-83, in the second game.

Completing the elims with a 4-9 card, the TJ Hotdogs hope Barangay Ginebra beats Alaska on Wednesday to force a playoff for the last quarterfinal seat in Group A against the Aces.

The Turbochargers ended the conference at 3-10, closing out their season campaign with 10 wins and 25 setbacks.

Scores:

STA. LUCIA 93—Duremdes 20, Owens 18, Webb 16, Espino 13, Aquino 10, Santos 8, Mendoza 4, Bat-og 2, Adriano 2, Victolero 0, Ong, 0, Francisco 0, Tan 0.

SAN MIGUEL 90—Johnson 28, Hontiveros 13, Peña 13, Racela 12, Belasco 11, Victoria 9, Gamboa 2, Gahol 2, Paras 0, Mente 0.

Quarters: 22-19, 45-49, 67-71, 93-90

Second Game

PUREFOODS 92—Cookie 42, Seigle 11, Demape 11, Raymundo 8, Yee 8, Castillo 7, Patrimonio 5, Mamaril 0, Fernandez 0, Santos 0.

SHELL 83—Dela Cruz 24, Hrabak 21, Calaguio 14, Laure 8, Tubid 5, Singson 5, Jackson 3, Sta. Maria 2, Bacani 1, Bajar 0, Marzan 0.

Quarters: 22-20, 25-19, 25-21, 20-23.

OLSEN Racela of San Miguel Beer gets entangled with Sta. Lucia's Jason Webb as Marlou Aquino looks on during their game last night. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Mixed results for young RP chessers

HALKIDIKI, Greece—The Philippines continued its roller coaster campaign in the 2003 World Youth Chess Championships, winning some and losing some in the all-important ninth and 10th rounds at the Athos Palace and Pallini Hotels here.

Led by Karl Victor Ochoa and Cindy Atayde, the Filipinos posted six wins, 10 draws and four losses in five different age categories in this tough, 11-round tournament which attracted more than 1,000 participants from a record 84 countries.

Ochoa, the third of seven children of a computer programmer from Calumpit, Bulacan, displayed another high-level brand of chess and claimed the biggest of the Filipinos' five triumphs in the penultimate round by beating 25th seed Sebastien Feller (ELO 2105) of France in 48 moves of the Pirc-Austrian Attack.

Ochoa, who fell to No. 17 Boris Kharhenko (ELO 2142) of Ukraine in the previous round, deviated from the book to gain a strong positional advantage with the white pieces.

The win—the fifth against three draws and two losses—enabled Ochoa to stay in the upper half of the standings, in a tie for 13th to 22nd places with 6.5 points in the boys 12-and-under class, going into the 11th and final round on Sunday.

"*Maganda yung panalo ni* Karl *sa lahat. Talagang magaling*," said GM Eugene Torre, who is acting head coach of the 10-player team being supported by the First Gentleman Foundation and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Atayde drew with Yanjav Batsaya of Mongolia in the ninth round and won over Mathilde Congiu of France in the penultimate round to improve her record to 5.5 points in the girls' 14-year-old-and-under category.

Equally impressive were Oliver Barbosa, who defeated Gabriel Mazzioti of Argentina in the ninth round and drew with Matthew Cornette of France in the 10th round in the boys' 18-and-under class and Julius Joseph de Ramos, who halved the point with Dorian Vicol of MDA.

Allen out for 8 weeks

SEATTLE—Seattle SuperSonics guard Ray Allen will be out six to eight weeks after successful arthroscopic surgery Saturday on his right ankle.

The surgery, the first of the 28-year-old Allen's career, was performed by Dr. Richard Ferkel in Los Angeles.

A team news release didn't specify whether doctors removed a bone chip, damaged ligament or other debris. Allen told reporters before the procedure that doctors didn't know exactly what was lodged inside his ankle.

Allen went on the injured list Oct. 27 and didn't travel with the team for its season-opening series in Japan against the LA Clippers. He's expected to attend Seattle's home opener against Portland on Nov. 7.

Allen averaged 24.5 points in 29 games for the Sonics last season after being acquired in a blockbuster trade that sent Gary Payton, the franchise's all-time leading scorer, to Milwaukee. *AP*

Yakult 10-Miler listing ends tomorrow

RUNNERS have only until tomorrow to submit their entries for this Sunday's Yakult 10-Miler which will start and finish at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex grounds in Pasay City.

Now on its 15th year, the annual race offers P180,000 in prizes to top finishers of the centerpiece 10-mile event, the 3K kiddie race and the 5K fun run.

Entries can be submitted at the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. on Annapolis Street in San Juan.

All finishers will receive certificates and Yakult running singlets. A special trophy will be awarded to the group with the most number of entries.

In celebration of Yakult Phils.' 25th anniversary, cash prizes of P7,000 plus a trophy will be awarded to the winners of the men's and women's categories of the 10-mile event. Runners-up will get P3,000, with the third to fifth placers pocketing P2,000, P1,000 and P500, respectively. The top two overall finishers in the 10-mile race, male and female, and the top finisher of the 5K fun run will also win Nike shoes.

One race day, Nike Running Solutions Sports Medicine Consultants will offer runners foot-type evaluations for free. They can try the latest Nike running shoes designed for their specific foot type.

Last year, about 2,500 runners joined the race, with Eduardo Buenavista ruling the men's event in 49:37 and Christabel Martes topping the distaff side in 1:03:07. The 5K run was won by Rovel Canillo in 15:58 and Joan Erespe in 19:11.

Assisting organizers in this Sunday's race are the cities of Manila, Pasay and Parañaque, their respective traffic bureaus, MMDA, Philippine National Red Cross and Spectrum Communications.

The PBA is not terminally ill

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

BY now, he's more than aware of the illness.

He also knows it could be fatal.

But there's one big problem.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala obviously is not fully acquainted with the killer disease.

No need actually to use the stethoscope.

One look and you could sense the need for an urgent cure.

Of course, there was no need yet for an ambulance; as people, our usually irrepressible basketball fans, could join hands to save the PBA.

Problem here is that these people themselves have started to avoid the pro league.

Yes, the PBA is no longer as hot, as well admired and fanatically patronized as it used to be.

The old loving feeling is gone, gone, gone.

***

It being his job, Commissioner Eala offered what had looked like an instant cure.

But you know what? One look at the prescription gave majority of member PBA teams the shock.

The proposal sent these responsible team officials into a nervous, frantic shudder.

They swore Eala's proposed cure, although it looked sincere and harmless on the surface, could amount to suicide.

No, it was not the cobra venom Eala had recommended for the PBA with his offer to alter the annual calendar and come up with only one championship, a la NBA, starting next year.

But that, insisted at least two team managers we had talked to, could amount to mercy killing.

It's true, the PBA is sick, but it's not terminally ill.

***

Honestly, your reporter here, just like Mr. Eala, had initially thought that a one-championship format could help restore the PBA to its glory years.

You know, those days when people would come running to the game venue just to cheer for their respective teams, not unlike tribal entities ready to die for both belief and devotion.

Anyway, Eala had explained that, with the one-conference format, they could also attune the PBA schedule to the international basketball calendar.

And that this adjustment could give the PBA time to select its finest to be fielded in prestigious Asian tournaments, like the Asian Games and the ABC, which also serves as Olympic qualifier for the region.

But PBA decision makers need not look far to agree that picking local pros, molding them into an instant national squad for the Asiad, had repeatedly ended up in disaster.

What the PBA can do is help install a farm team of young national players whose skills and talent would be attuned to exacting international standards.

***

To repeat, the Eala cure had appeared great at first hand.

With only one champion team each year, the PBA would truly resemble the American model which it has been blindly copying since 1975, its first year of existence.

But, going to the core of the issue, the one-conference format could be great only to the few that could qualify and sustain exposure.

What should not also be overlooked is the fact that the contracts of all players are based solidly on the three-conference merit and incentive system.

Another factor in the Eala format that will certainly alienate fans from the PBA is the scheduling and bracketing of squads.

This reporter, after a close look at the proposed new PBA annual schedule, was readily turned off.

Why? Well, with its dizzying intricacies and shifts, media could use up all available time and space to just explain the format to the public.

There was one phase, reserved for nonqualifiers who would be allowed to resuscitate themselves in the losers' bracket, that's sure to baffle and frustrate even the most avid crossword puzzle addict.

***

Team officials opposed to the Eala proposal could indeed be accused of selfishness.

But, in all honesty, the biggest victim of this format is the very essence of PBA's existence.

What the PBA should instead formulate is a system that would lead and inspire all the players to come up with sustained dedication to their calling.

This is being mentioned here because, if half of the teams get waylaid in the one-conference format, the final result would be doubly disastrous.

By the time players from the unsuccessful clubs reappear a year after disqualification, they would have all been forgotten by the basketball public.

The idea is to bring the PBA back closer to the people.

***

Give the league back to the fans, as one team manager begged.

To show their concern, worried team officials offered to meet Eala midway.

They said they are amenable to a two-conference format; although this has yet to be taken up with owners who spend a fortune for teams with the hope of gaining necessary advertising in return.

Unlike in the NBA, the gold that sustains the PBA is product marketing.

Let's be practical, said these team officials, we cannot afford to kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

Otherwise, two team officials confided to the INQUIRER that they would have no choice but desert the PBA.

The goose may be sick, but what it needs is a cure, not the coroner.

TOBY'S BADMINTON

Malabon boy, DLS-Z bet shine

RHONIEL Hernandez and Abigail Garcia seized the 10-and-under singles crowns yesterday in the Toby's Age-Group Badminton Championships at the SM Megamall Activity Center.

Hernandez, a grade 5 student at the Niugan Elementary School in Malabon and who has trained for two years under national coach Butch Oreta, posted a convincing 15-4, 15-12 victory over Ivan Angsico of GCBC.

Hernandez later combined with Edrick Lacson of St. Therese of the Child Jesus to capture the doubles title over Johan Dee of Xavier and John Carlo Cagomoc of Pinaglabanan Elementary School, 15-11, 15-6.

The 10-year-old Garcia, a fourth-grader at the De La Salle-Zobel, stamped her class over Suchika Kumar, 11-3, 11-0, to win the girls' crown. Garcia won the singles silver medal in the PRISAA and was part of the team that won the bronze medal in the Milo championships last year.

The girls' doubles title went to Jorella de Jesus and Angelu Angeles of St. James University. They whipped the partnership of Ysabel Denise Garcia and Annabelle Lacorte of Sports Zone, 15-2, 15-1.

AC Chan of SPTA and Kumar defeated Ralph Lao of GCBC and Arabelle Lacorte of Sports Zone, 15-9, 15-6, to capture the mixed doubles title in this weeklong event sponsored by adidas, Carlton, Wilson, RSL, Prince, Gosen, KFC, SM Shoemart, 103.5 K-lite, Taraflex and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

In the boys' 16-and-under singles, Kevin Ang downed Renz Gesmundo, 15-3, 15-2, to advance to the semifinals against Stanley Macaspac, a 15-7, 15-7 winner over Jobett Co.

In other matches, Gabriel Villanueva beat Ericden Dionisio, 15-13, 15-8, and Dave Moldogo conquered Kevin Dalisay, 15-3, 15-12, to also earn berths in the last four.

In the boys' 12-under singles, Enzo Guerrero outplayed Jovan Joshua Garcia, 15-4, 15-7, to advance to the finals against Patrick Magnaye, who upended John Gregg Paz, 15-0, 15-6.

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Quirimit heads roster of favorites

QUIRIMIT pumps it along Kennon Road in last year's Tour Pilipinas. VAL HANDUMON

REIGNING Tour Pilipinas champion Arnel Quirimit heads the cast of big guns among 300 riders vying in the Tour's Metro Manila special race this Sunday.

The unprecedented 114-km massed start race, which will be fired off and finished at the Marikina City Sports Park, will pass through much of the metropolis' cities and towns and is part of the Tour's schedule of special races.

Organizers have laid out a challenging route that will take the riders to UP Balara, Fairview, Novaliches, Balintawak, Monumento, Rizal Avenue in Caloocan City, Abad Santos, Binondo, Jones Bridge, Aduana, Roxas Boulevard, Gil Puyat, Macapagal Avenue, Naia Road, Sucat and Alabang, where they will turn toward Marikina.

Riders from the last Tour's 12 teams will compete in the event principally sponsored by Air21 and backed by FedEx and Mail and More.

Quirimit of the Tanduay Rhum Riders is expected to be challenged for race honors and the top cash prize by his fellow national teammates who are in the thick of preparation for next month's 22nd Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam.

Besides the Rhum Riders, the other teams seeing action are Intel, Samsung, PagcorSports, Bowling Gold, PLDT-NDD, Gilbey's Island Punch, DILG Patrol 117, DILG Drug Busters, DENR Ecosavers, DOTC Postmen and BIR Vat Riders.

Marikina Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando will fire the starting gun at 9 a.m.

The Tour's qualifying races are the 190-km massed start race on an out-and-back course in Cuenca, Batangas on Nov. 15 and the 36-km individual time trial from Lemery to Batulao in Batangas via Tagaytay City on Nov. 16.

More than 300 riders, led by top national team member Victor Espiritu, have so far earned slots to the qualifying races. The top 36 riders in last summer's Tour are automatically seeded to next year's 21-day, 17-stage event that will pass through towns in Samar and Leyte.

Bert Lina, chairman of Air21 and Tour Pilipinas Inc. and president of PhilCycling, the national sports association for the sport, as well as Tour organizer and Air21 president Lito Alvarez will join Mayor Fernando in sending off the riders.

The event is managed by the Philippine National Cycling Association.

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RP women booters whitewash Malaysians

RHEA Penales struck twice as the well-prepared Philippine team blanked Malaysia, 4-0, last Friday in the opener of the Quadrangular women's football tournament at the National Sports Council turf in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The RP lasses pulled in front with a goal from Scarlet Bautista off a Marielle Benitez corner in the 13th minute before Penales made it 2-0 with a header from a long ball in the 24th minute.

Andrea Yang scored the Filipinas' third goal in the 70th minute before Penales closed scoring with a superbly struck marker in the 80th.

It was a great result for RP head coach Marlon Maro's girls who are preparing for the Vietnam SEA Games next month.

In the only other contest of the evening, Thailand thrashed Indonesia, 6-0.

The Filipinas were taking on the favored Thais last night for a berth in the final.

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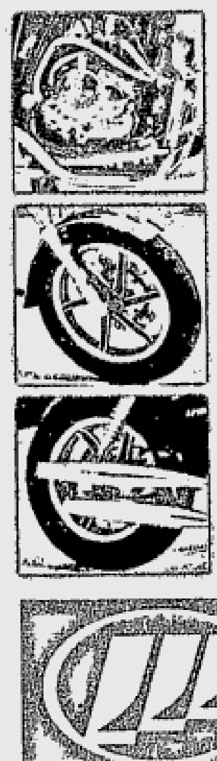

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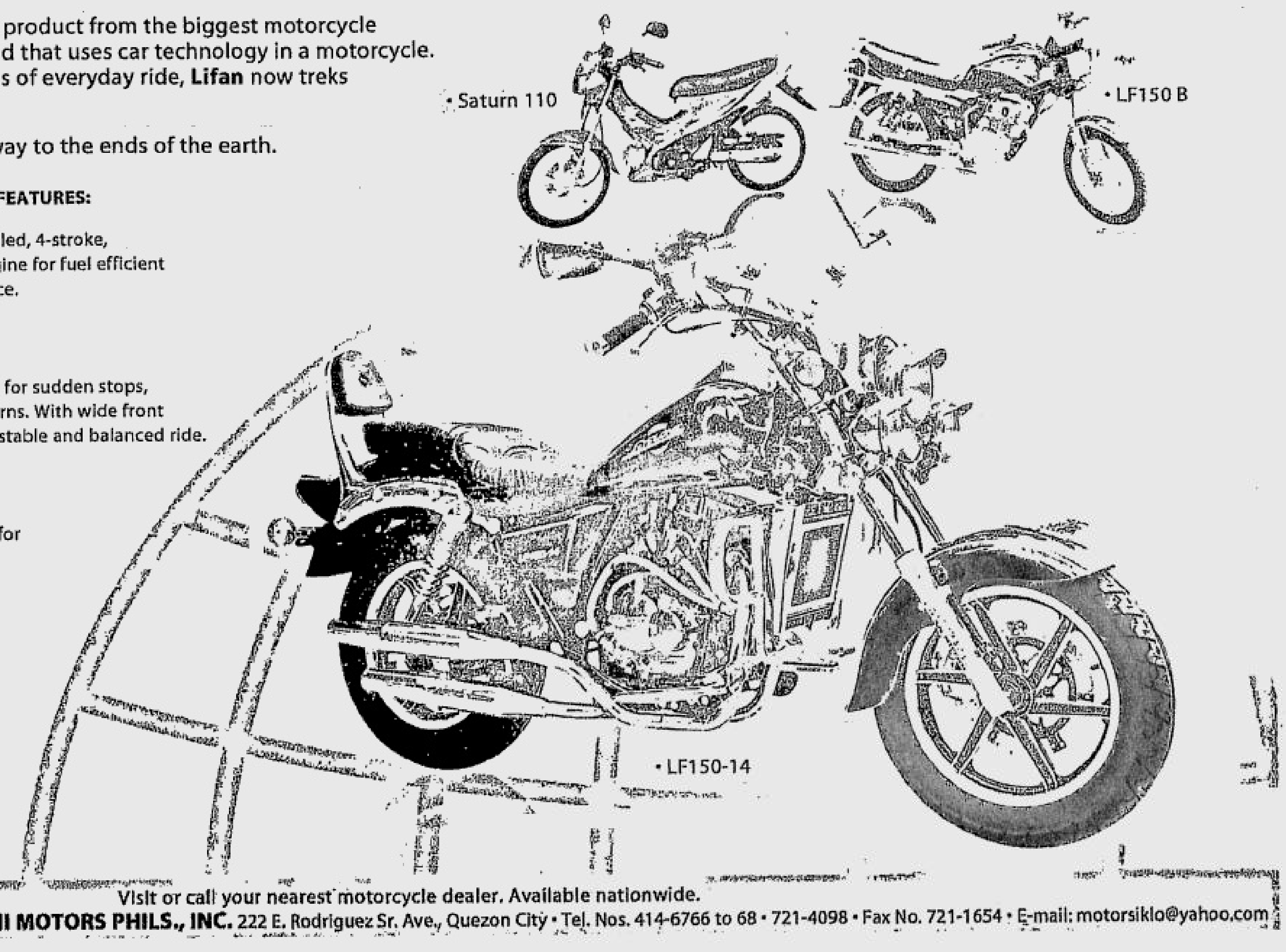

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Sprewell stars as T'wolves shame

MINNEAPOLIS—Kevin Garnett had 20 points and seven rebounds, and Latrell Sprewell's defense helped the Minnesota Timberwolves hold Toronto to a franchise-low for points in a 73-56 victory.

Vince Carter was the only member of the Raptors in double figures, scoring 15 points. Toronto opened with a 2-0 record for the first time in franchise history, but Carter shot just 5-for-15 as Sprewell guarded him tightly all night.

Sam Cassell added 13 Saturday for Minnesota, which scored a franchise-low 61 points the previous night at New Jersey. Toronto's 56 points was the lowest total ever against the Wolves.

In Washington, Jason Kidd had 30 points and nine assists to lead the New Jersey Nets past a raw and younger image of themselves coached by their former assistant coach, Eddie Jordan.

Richard Jefferson added 19 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for the Nets, who never trailed. Brian Scalabrine, starting for injured forward Kenyon Martin, had 12 points, including the first three in a 9-2 run that opened the fourth quarter and restored New Jersey's double-digit lead.

In Orlando, Florida, Richard Hamilton scored 10 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, backcourt partner Chauncey Billups added 17, and Chucky Atkins, Detroit's third guard, had 14 points.

Ben Wallace had 13 points and 17 rebounds for his second double-double of the season, leading the Pistons to a 50-33 rebounding advantage.

It was the first meeting between the teams since the opening round of last season's playoff
that best-of-s
for three stra

Tracy McC
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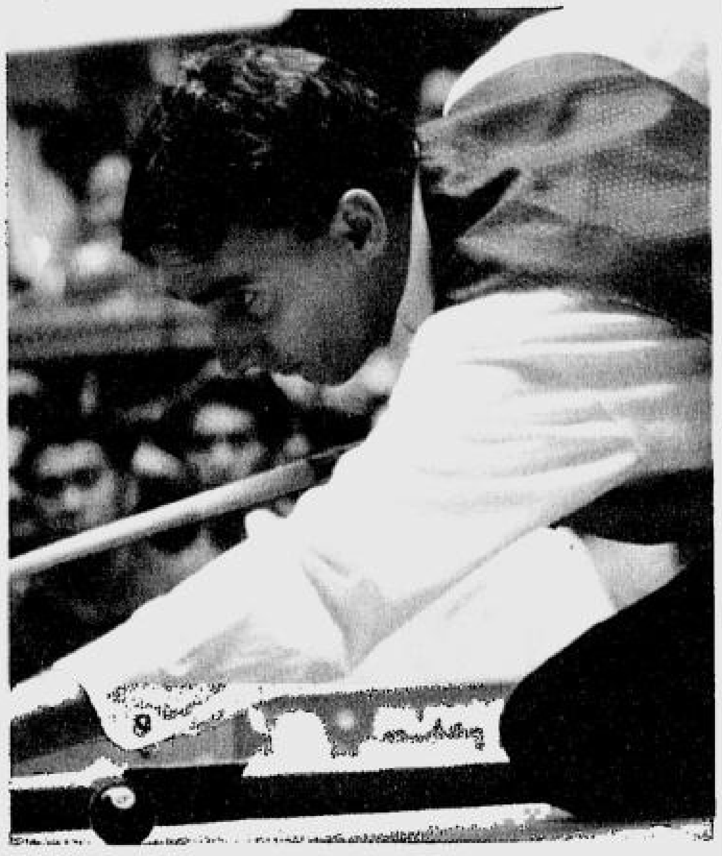


ARCHER'S sweetest victory came in the US Open. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Archer: I'm playing a lot better this year

By Anthony Suntay

JOHNNY Archer is one of the greatest billiards players of all time. His name is practically synonymous with the game of pool. This gifted athlete, who is also a scratch golfer, has visited the country several times but has never been this successful. The soft-spoken American, in town for the LG Flatron On Cue 2: Battle of Champions tournament, spoke to the INQUIRER moments before winning the tournament, his fourth straight and eighth over-all this year. He pocketed the $20,000 top prize.

INQUIRER: Johnny, where did all this begin?

JOHNNY: I started when I was 12 years old. Actually, in a little town I grew up in. My friends and I always picked out something to do for the summer. In a small town, you really have nothing to do. We'd play video games in the store and we all got good at it, then we decided to go to the back of the store and play pool. We played all summer and after the summer, all the guys quit, but I kept on playing. I just loved to play! And the rest as they say, is history. Now here I am.

INQUIRER: Among all the tournaments you have won, what would be the most special?

JOHNNY: I really enjoy and cherish the US Open. It has always been a tournament close to my heart, being in my own country. As with all the sports in America, each one has a US Open and that's the one Americans really cherish. I guess I'm the same way. I love the US Open!

INQUIRER: You told me that you feel you're playing better this year than last year?

JOHNNY: I think that I am playing better this year than in 10 years! Maybe around 5 to 6 years... I have been playing well all year and just about a month ago, I had a conversation with my wife because I wasn't winning, but I knew I was playing well, and I couldn't understand why. She thought it might have been my pace of play. I was taking too much time, letting bad thoughts come in and was putting too much pressure on myself instead of just getting up and playing. I got to the Sudden Death 7-Ball Tournament, which had a 30 second shot clock, and I said to myself this was the best opportunity for me to start playing faster and get a good rhythm. I started good, and all of a sudden I was running out and playing well, and won three tournaments in a row.

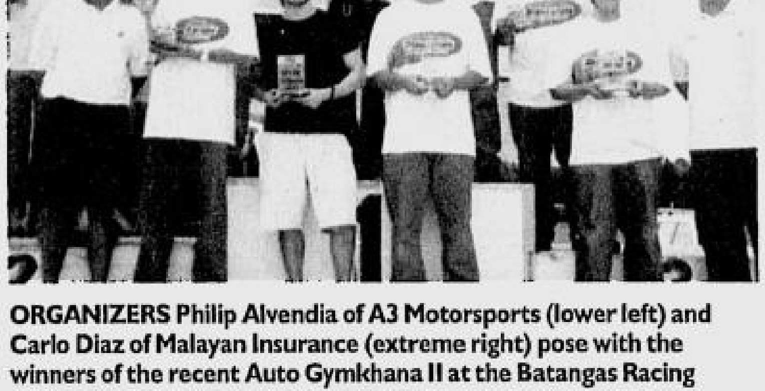
INQUIRER: You are also an excellent golfer, any plans towards that direction?

JOHNNY: I would love to! That is definitely my next love, besides my wife of course. Actually, I have a dream that if I can make enough money to retire when I am 45, I'm gonna take five years off, do as much as I can with coaches and teachers, then I'll join the Senior Tour when I'm fifty. That's the second dream that I have...

SPORTSWATCH

Tan, Lim head Sports Forum guests

EMBATTLED officials of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) led by its vice-president Christian Tan and secretary-general Graham Lim present their side of the story in the controversy hounding local amateur basketball in tomorrow's session of the PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion. With them in the public sports program sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor is BAP legal counsel Bonifacio Alentajan. Aside from basketball, motor sports will also be tackled in the 10:30 a.m. session with the guesting of ace rider Jolet Jao and the people behind Delo Sports 4x4 National Extreme Series finals set Nov. 7-9, namely Land Cruiser Club of the Philippines president Nas Ona, National Association of Filipino Off-Roader secretary general Dexter Tang and organizer Sonee Pili.



ORGANIZERS Philip Alvendia of A3 Motorsports (lower left) and Carlo Diaz of Malayan Insurance (extreme right) pose with the winners of the recent Auto Gymkhana II at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Among the top finishers were JV Colayco, Dahlia Guerrero, Joezel Cruz, Edgardo Silaw, Edwin Lipat, Felix Perez, Nelson Armamento, Sonny de Torres Jeffrey Catapang and Juko Matriano.

Kobe returns to a mix of boos, cheers

PHOENIX—Kobe Bryant heard mostly boos, but more than a few cheers, as he made his return to the Los Angeles Lakers, and wound up playing more than he expected.

Bryant made three of four free throws in the final 66 seconds Saturday night, finishing with 15 points in the Lakers' 103-99 victory over the Phoenix Suns. He scored 15 points on 4-for-12 shooting in 37 minutes.

Bryant's two free throws with 1:06 to go, put the Lakers up 99-97. He missed one of two with 10.9 seconds left, and Los Angeles leading 102-99, to give the Suns a chance to tie it.

But Los Angeles held on to win.

With Lakers' fans scattered among the sellout crowd at America West Arena, Bryant had his supporters as he was introduced in the starting lineup before the Lakers' game against the Phoenix Suns.

But he was booed early in the game each time he touched the ball.

Earlier in the day, Bryant said he was expecting the worst but wouldn't let the reception bother him.

"I've been through a lot, much heavier stuff than worrying about what the crowd is going to say. That's not really my concern," Bryant said.

"I'll just come and expect the worst. Everything's pretty much up from that point, if you expect the worst."

Lakers coach Phil Jackson announced after Saturday morning's shootaround that Bryant would start. The All-Star guard was held out of the Lakers' season-opening victory Tuesday night because of weakness in his surgically repaired right knee.

That surgery was in July in Colorado; Bryant is awaiting trial on a charge he sexually assaulted a 19-year-old woman in his hotel room the night before the operation.

"Kobe has always shown himself to be self-contained. Self-control has always been one of his biggest things. He's going to be fine," Jackson said. "I hope the fan response to him is going to be as controlled."

Bryant received a standing ovation when he joined his teammates on the bench in the third quarter of Tuesday's home game.

"It's just natural that you hope he gets support from the fans," Jackson said, "because it's obviously a very delicate matter, and it's a personal matter."

The coach expects Bryant to play well despite the knee and his serious off-court problems.

"He's been known for his individual style, his ability to play the game at such a high level," Jackson said.

The feuding between Bryant and teammate Shaquille O'Neal has been brushed aside, at least for now. Bryant said during the week that he had put the disagreements with O'Neal behind him.

O'Neal ended his media boycott Friday and addressed the matter.

"It happens, it's over with, we just have to move on," O'Neal said. "He's boisterous. I'm boisterous. I don't take anything personally."

Bryant lashed out at O'Neal during a telephone interview with ESPN on Monday, calling the center "childlike," "unprofessional," "selfish," "fat" and "jealous."

Jackson said Bryant's minutes on the court would be limited Saturday night.

"I would hope he can play half the game," Jackson said.

Bryant agreed with the coach's assessment.

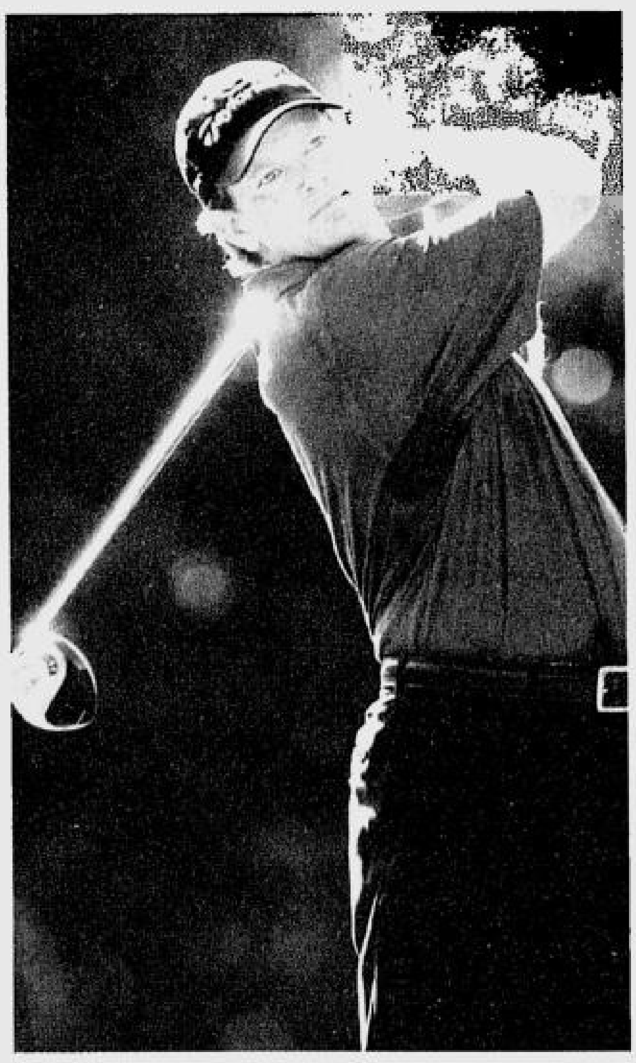
"I told Phil I don't expect to play 35 minutes," Bryant said. "I don't think my knee would carry me that long, plus we've got back-to-backs."

He wound up playing 37. The Lakers play at home against the Golden State Warriors on Sunday.

"To come out here and play the game that I love to play, it's fun," Bryant said. "The game of basketball is just so much fun."

He and O'Neal led the Lakers to three straight NBA titles, a run that ended last year with a second-round playoff loss to eventual champion San Antonio.

BRYANT (8) drives past Phoenix Suns' guard Ar



GOOSEN tees off on the ninth hole. AP

Goosen unflappable

PALM HARBOR, Florida—Retief Goosen looked unflappable as ever Saturday in the Chrysler Championship on his way to a 4-under-par 67 and a two-stroke lead.

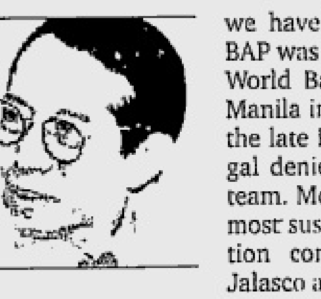
Briny Baird had a 66 and was two strokes behind, but the name that got Goosen's attention was Vijay Singh.

The big Fijian had six birdies over his final 11 holes and matched the low round of the tournament, a 6-under 65 that left him only three strokes behind and in the final group Sunday, a familiar position.

A victory by Singh would clinch the money title and end Tiger Woods' four-year reign. Otherwise, it would be decided next week at the Tour Championship. *AP*

A well-deserved victory

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

NOT to brag, but American shot-maker Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer lived up to my prediction that he would be the player to reckon with in the "On Cue II: Battle of Champions" by winning the title and the $20,000 paycheck of the four-day billiards blockbuster which ended last Friday at the Robinson's Galleria in Mandaluyong City. The 35-year-old Archer, playing consistently cool and getting most of the breaks as well, beat luckless Filipino idol Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 13-10, in the race-to-13 finals, I am consoled by the fact that Bata missed that chance only due to the quirks of the quotient system, losing to Bustamante in the tiebreak.

"Archer's really a tough nut to crack. *Magaling,*" said Bustamante, adding that even before the match, he wasn't sure he'd beat Archer chiefly because the American is enjoying one of his finest seasons ever, winning a string of victories in the tough US tour.

"He was a class act and I wouldn't mind losing to a great player like him."

The turning point of the game was the 18th rack when Bustamante came out empty in his turn at the break when he scratched. Archer took advantage of Bustamante's misfortune, played smooth and precise billiards and reached the hill at 11-7, coming within two games of the championship organized by Puyat Sports and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

The 39-year-old Bustamante then broke for all the marbles and was rewarded with two victories in the 19th and 20th racks, closing in at 11-9. But Archer—in contemporary billiards history the most feared player in professional pool along with Bata Reyes—cruised through the nail-biting finish to preserve the lead and win the match with an ace in the 23rd rack.

A frequent Manila visitor, the victory was the first for Archer since 1994 when he launched his Philippine campaign upon the invitation of sports patron Putch Puyat. A three-time champion of the Cardiff World Pool championship in 1992, 1993 and 1995 and US Open winner in 1999, Archer vowed to come back next year.

***

MALONSO WRITES. Former POC president and sports critique Col. Julian Malonso said the other day that the decision of the Court of Appeals recognizing the BAPI (Basketball Association of the Philippines Inc.) is "government intervention."

In a faxed statement, Malonso said that because the FIBA (International Basketball Federation) recognizes the BAP (Basketball Association of the Philippines), the other group involved in the controversy, the FIBA can suspend the Philippines from the international sports arena.

"The PSC (Philippine Sports Commission) and the POC (Philippine Olympic Committee) should not take side in the BAP controversy," Malonso warned, specially the POC, which is recognized by the IOC (International Olympic Committee), a judicial body. The IOC representative to the Philippines (Frank Elizalde) should settle this case before it becomes more complicated."

Malonso added that, "Up to now, we have
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gun-shy Raptors

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gton scored 20 points as Indiana's reserves outscored their Atlanta counterparts 38-8. That didn't even include Fred Jones, who scored 15 points as a fill-in starter for Reggie Miller (sore back).

Johnson hit a 3 from the corner with 22.6 seconds left in overtime, breaking a 97-97 tie. Atlanta tried to set up for a 3-pointer of its own, but Johnson tied up Terry for an apparent jump ball.

Frustrated, Terry swung a left elbow at Johnson, grazing his chin. The officials tossed Terry, and Johnson hit two free throws. *AP*

fernee Hardaway.
REUTERS

Pimentel wants ban on boxing

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

STUNNED by the death of a Mindanao boxer last Monday, Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. suggested yesterday that boxing be banned as a sport due to what he says is its inherent danger to fighters.

"Boxing should be outlawed already as a sport," Minda News' Proc Maslog quoted Pimentel as saying. "It is brutal and punishing and sometimes causes death as in this case."

Pimentel was reacting to the death of boxer Freddie Gimay, who was knocked out in the 8th round by his opponent Rober Gadian in Titay, Zamboanga last Oct. 27.

Gimay collapsed after the bout was halted. He died early the following day.

"Under its police powers, the state can enact legislative measures to ban boxing considering that it is a sport that results in death and injuries and where the boxer's aim is to maim and disable the opponent," Pimentel said.

Pimentel, however, acknowledged that boxing is a very popular sport in the Philippines, and many poor boxers see it as a way out of poverty.

"I think Senator Pimentel meant well, but the cure of the problem is not to ban boxing altogether, but to institute wide-ranging reforms over how it is being conducted," said a boxing promoter interviewed by the INQUIRER YESTERDAY.

"The solution is not to kill the sport. But rather, it is to address what needs to be addressed," said another boxing authority, who requested not to be identified.

"Foremost among these is to ensure that all people involved in the conduct of the sport should be the most competent to do it.

"The referee, ring physician, trainers and cornermen (of the Gimay fight) should be investigated."

Meanwhile, Games and Amusements Board Chair Eduardo Villanueva has already scheduled a full-blown investigation into the death of Gimay.

Villanueva has also approved the release of an amount from the Boxers' Welfare Fund to help the Gimay family.

PIMENTEL says Congress can ban the sport.

'Biggest' Founders Invitational set Nov. 20

WHAT could very well be the season's biggest member-guest tournament in terms of participation unfolds on Nov. 20-22 when the exclusive Orchard Golf and Country Club holds the seventh edition of its Founders Golf Invitational.

No less than 300 teams or 600 members and guests have registered for the three-day tourney at the Cavite Club's world famous Arnold Palmer course and the adjacent Gary Player layout.

While most of the completed club invitationals have limited their fields to no more than 300 teams, the Orchard has stretched what used to be just a weekend event to three days to accommodate a bigger field.

"We wanted to make this year's Founders Invitational something different and bigger than the previous ones. This way, we will also be able to let more members join the fun," said Orchard general manager Rene Garrovillo.

While the first five stagings of the Founders didn't have a roster exceeding 450, Garrovillo announced that the maximum cast of 600 has already been reached.

Teams will have choice tee-offs of Thursday-Friday, Friday-Saturday and Thursday-Saturday either on the 6:15 a.m. shotgun or the afternoon batches at 12 noon.

Entrants are also requested to call the Orchard at 843-8344 on tee-off schedules and other tournament details.

Tournament and raffle prizes worth P1 million will be at stake and all par-3s, except for the 12th of Palmer, will have a Ford Everest at stake for a hole-in-one feat.

PAR FOR THE COURSE: Robert Trent Jones, America's legendary golf course designer (right), explains to an aide the things he wants included in the Summit Point World 18 Golf Course in Lipa City. A joint venture of the Sta. Lucia Realty and the Leviste family, Summit Point was inspired by 18 of the best golf holes in the world. It is expected to be finished this year.

Palos Verdes parbusters gunning for another romp

RANCHO Palos Verdes of Davao hopes to sustain its big opening salvo when the course-hopping 2003 Sta. Lucia Tour resumes this week with the Visayas leg at the rolling Alta Vista Golf and Country Club in Pardo, Cebu.

After pulling ahead of the opposition by winning two of the three divisions in the Mindanao stop it hosted last month, the hot-starting Palos Verdes squad is out to foil the expected charge of the Alta Vista contingent.

Alta Vista is the defending overall champion of the Sta. Lucia Tour, a unique nationwide series featuring clubs flying the banner of real estate giant Sta. Lucia Realty Development Corp.

It is co-sponsored by Petron, Unirock, Readycon, Gainers Marketing, Kubota, Kodak, Titleist, Footjoy, Omega and Pagcor with Marco Polo (Davao), Marriot (Cebu) and Dusit Hotel Nikko (Manila) as partner hotels, Samsung and Yamaha Golf Cars as hole-in-one sponsors and Cebu Pacific as the official carrier.

As serious as the Alta Vista threat for Palos Verdes, however, is the renewed bid of back-to-back overall titlist Eagle Ridge, the only other club which went home with a team trophy from the Davao tiffs.

Orchard, Royale Tagaytay and Tour newcomer Caliraya Springs are also expected to do the same.

The six clubs are vying for the Sta. Lucia Cup which goes to the delegation with the best combined aggregate in all team divisions after the third and final leg to be co-hosted by Orchard and Eagle.

For each leg, teams will be eyeing the top plum in Groups I, II and III as well as individual awards in Class A, Class B, Class C and Class D, three of which was cornered by Alta Vista in the kickoff leg.

The Tour executive committee headed by Vicente Santos and Engr. Winfred Gob as co-chair will be heading to Cebu early this week to supervise the event. Thursday is reserved for the practice round with Friday and Saturday as competition days.

Participation in the Sta. Lucia Tour is partly subsidized by the realty firm where even companions are given substantial discounts on airfare and hotel accommodations.

Ahn wins first LPGA title

JEJU ISLAND, South Korea—South Korean rookie Shi-hyun Ahn shot a 4-under 68 Sunday to win the CJ Nine Bridges Classic, grabbing her first-ever professional title on the LPGA Tour.

Ahn, 19, who has never won a Korean LPGA Tour event, finished her first LPGA tournament with a 12-under 204 total on the 5,764-meter (6,306-yard) Club at Nine Bridges course on South Korea's Jeju Island.

"I am so happy," said Ahn, who defeated defending champion Se Ri Pak and three other players by three strokes.

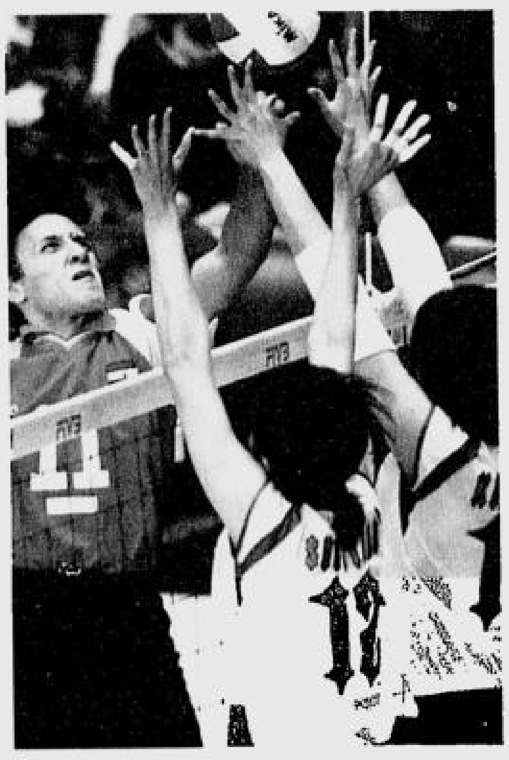
"I wasn't obsessed with winning the tournament, and I think that helped me win," said Ahn, who will be taking home US$187,500 in prize money.

With her victory, Ahn is qualified to play in most LPGA tournaments in the next two years without having to go through a qualifying tournament.

"If I get to the United States, I will try to produce good results," said Ahn, who finished her round Sunday by sinking a two-meter (six-foot) eagle putt on the par-5 18th hole.

The largest gallery followed Ahn, who was teamed with Se Ri Pak and Laura Davies. Ahn received the spotlight on Friday when she shot a 65 and took the lead after the first round. She kept her lead with a 71 in Saturday's second round.

Se Ri Pak, Laura Davies, Grace Park and Gloria Park of South Korea shot 9-under 207 totals and were tied in second place. *AP*


EGYPT's Toson Tahani (left) delivers a spike over Japan's Sachiko Sugiyama (12) and Megumi Kurihara during their first round match of the women's volleyball World Cup in Tokyo Sunday. Japan won, 25-10, 25-15, 25-21.
AP

Chinese spikers outgun Cuban World Cup foes

TOKYO—Asian champion China overpowered four-time defending champion Cuba for its second straight win in the World Cup women's volleyball tournament on Sunday.

The Chinese, who had to be satisfied with the silver medal to Cuba's gold in the 1990 and 1998 worlds, 1991 World Cup and the 1996 Olympics, gained sweet revenge with a 25-20, 25-17, 25-19 victory in Kagoshima, Western Japan.

China, world champion Italy, world silver medalist the United States and Asian silver medalists Japan remained unbeaten with two wins each in the 12-team round robin, vying for three tickets for the Athens Olympics.

"Cuba were very good in attack today, but we defended very well against them," said Chinese coach Chen Zhonghe.

The Dominican Republic, wild card entrants, drew the first blood beating European champions Poland, 25-21, 25-17, 25-27, 25-21, while Brazil defeated European No.2 Turkey, 27-29, 25-19, 25-23, 25-10. *AFP*

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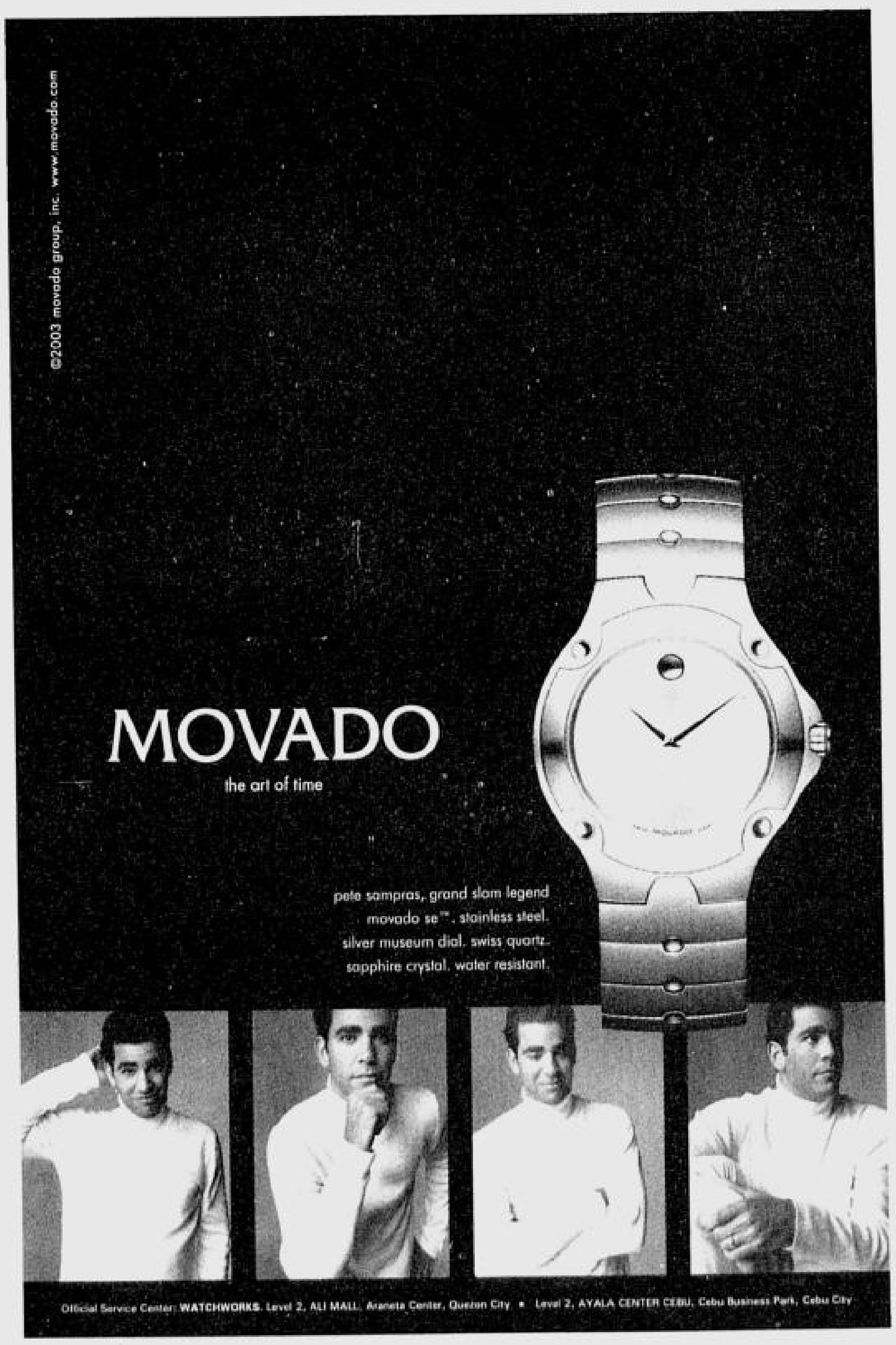
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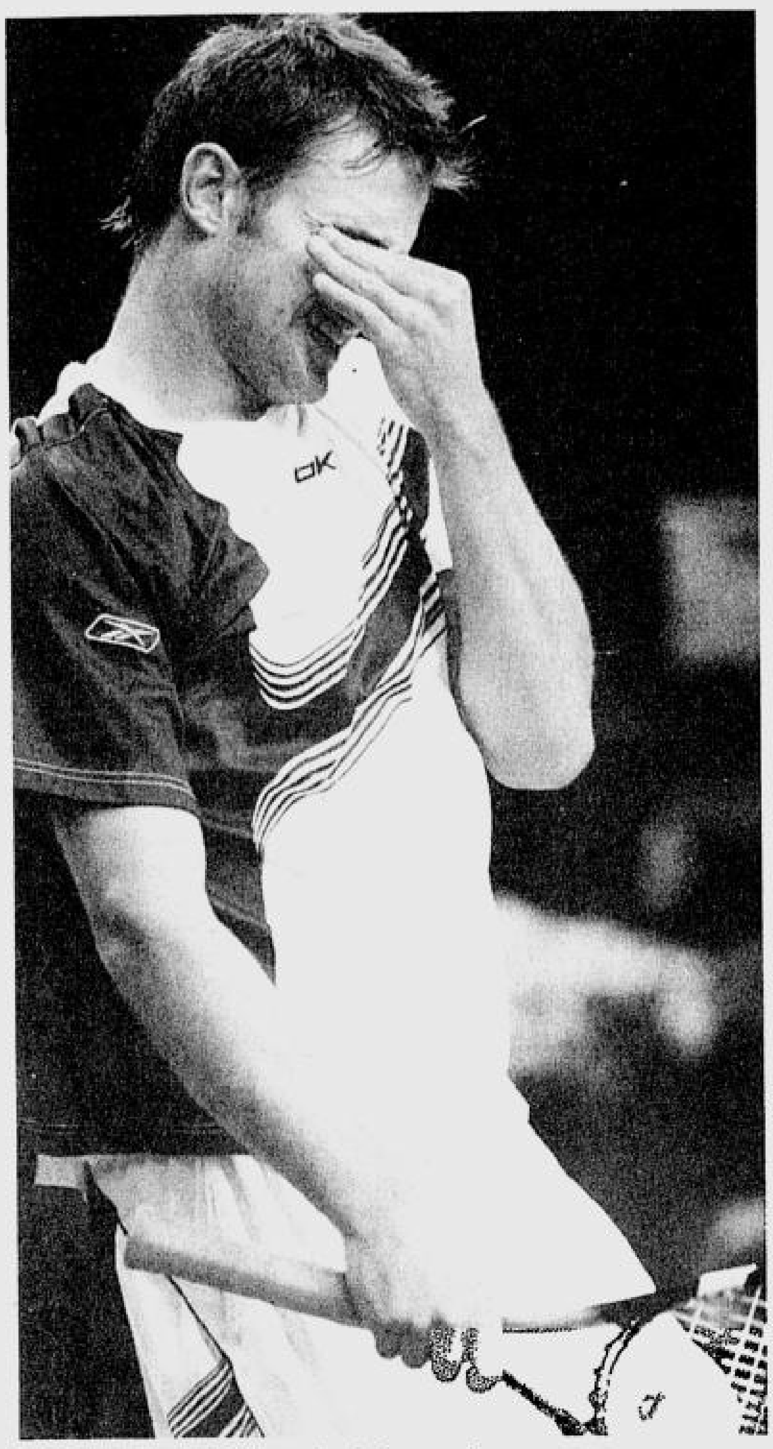
Henman shocks Roddick in Paris



RODDICK covers his face after losing a point. AFP

Unseeded Romanian sets up final showdown with Tim

PARIS—Tim Henman of Britain stunned Andy Roddick in the Paris Masters semifinals Saturday, upsetting the American, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (7), and ending his bid for a seventh title this season.

"He came up with the goods—so, well done," Roddick said. "He just outplayed me."

Henman converted his sixth match point to improve to 2-1 this year against Roddick, the US Open champion who already was assured of moving up to No. 1 in the ATP Tour rankings next week.

As the 21-year-old's game unwound, he cursed and slammed his racket to the ground and at one point, whacked his head with it a few times in punishment for sending a service return to the net.

"It was a great match for me, and hopefully a great match for the spectators," Henman said. "It's certainly the best that I've played, but the job's not done."

In the final, Henman faces unseeded Andrei Pavel of Romania, who upset No. 14 Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4, in Saturday's other semifinal.

The 29-year-old Pavel, who was sidelined for six months with back and wrist injuries, had won a mere three matches this season prior to Paris. Ranked 191st, Pavel was only invited to play in Paris last Friday when everyone above him pulled out.

"I didn't expect to be in the final," said Pavel. "I'm so happy."

The unseeded Romanian's advance to the last round included a win over No. 5 seed Rainer Schuettler in the quarters and then Novak, who toppled top-seed Juan Carlos Ferrero.

His forecast for the final: "If I play aggressive like today, I have a big chance."

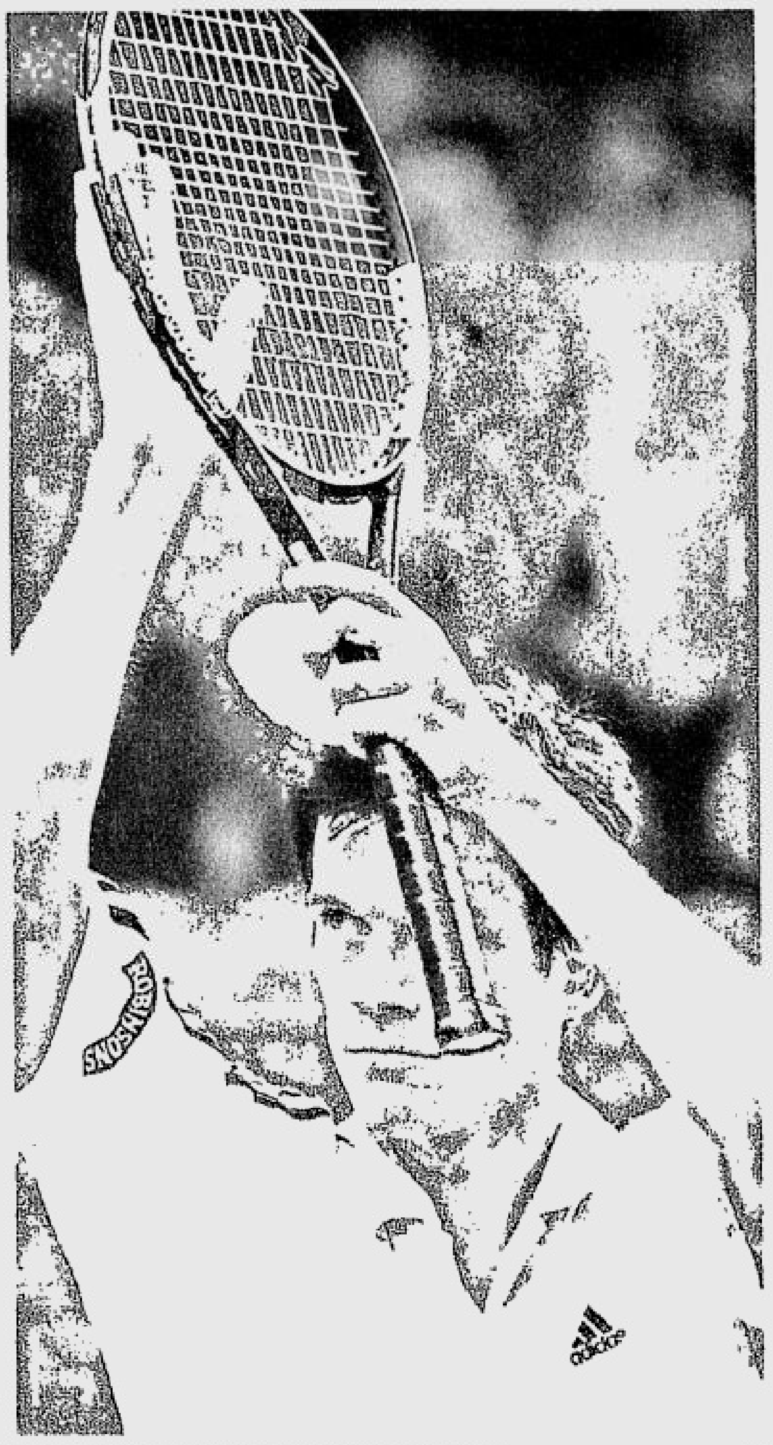
Henman's victory over Roddick also came on top of a stellar run in Paris. The Briton, who has never won a Masters Series title, eliminated Wimbledon champion and third-seeded Roger Federer, No. 7 Sebastien Grosjean and three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten in earlier rounds. Henman says he's never played better.

"It's certainly the best that I've played," Henman said. "It's always been there. You know, I've played well in patches, but not as consistently."

Henman's strategy against the strongest server in the game was clear: Run Roddick ragged. He brought the American up and sent him back, then side-to side. The tactic racked up repeated points.

Henman, who's been working to improve his serve, left Roddick stunned at the baseline on several occasions. The 29-year-old started strong, breaking Roddick's opening service and then held in the next game with an aggressive display of the serve-and-volley skills he excels at.

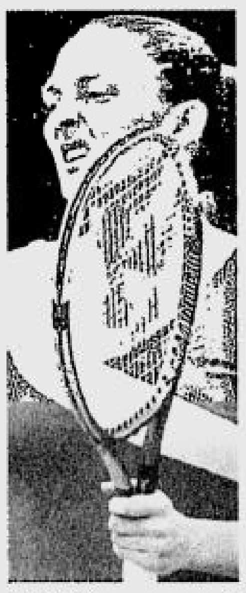
"The first game can be an opportunity," Henman said. "It set the tone for the match. It sent a message to Andy." *AP*



HENMAN acknowledges the cheering crowd. AP

BELL CHALLENGE

Venezuelan netter stuns Pierce



PIERCE AP

QUEBEC CITY, Canada—Unseeded Milagros Sequera continued her improbable run at the $170,000 Bell Challenge on Saturday, reaching her first career WTA Tour final with a rout of top-seeded Mary Pierce of France.

Sequera, a Venezuelan who has spent most of the year on the lesser ITF Tour, silenced the partisan crowd by embarrassing the Montreal-born Pierce, 6-4, 6-0.

Having rallied to win two straight matches after dropping the first set, Sequera made quick work of Pierce, a former Grand Slam champion denied a chance at her 16th career title and first since the 2000 French Open.

Sequera, 23, has won eight titles on the ITF circuit but none this year.

She has now won four straight matches and on Sunday she'll try to knock off her third-seeded victim in this tournament in No. 2 Maria Sharapova of Russia, who is gunning for her second title.

Sharapova had a tougher time Saturday as she rallied for a 1-6, 6-2, 6-1 victory over fourth-seeded American Laura Granville. Granville was denied her first career final appearance.

Playing her first full season on the WTA Tour, the 16-year-old Sharapova has climbed to 32nd in the world rankings.

Sharapova is playing the best tennis of her short pro career as she advanced to her third straight semifinal here.

She won her first WTA Tour title in both singles and doubles at the Japan Open four weeks ago.

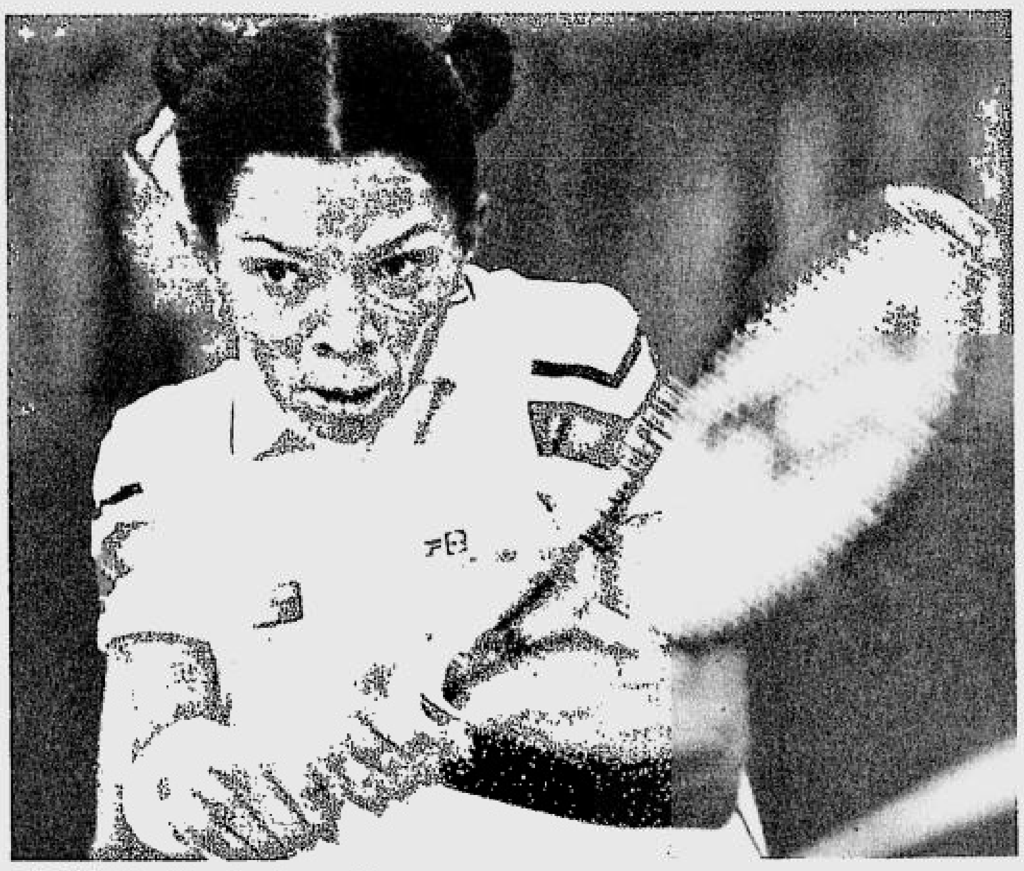
Then, last week in Luxembourg, she reached the semifinals, falling to eventual champion Kim Clijsters and jumped to a career-high No. 32 ranking.

She made her Grand Slam debut this year by qualifying for the Australian Open.

Many of the top WTA players are not participating in Quebec, preferring to rest for next week's WTA Tour championships.

Singles semifinals results: Maria Sharapova (2), Russia, def. Laura Granville (4), United States, 1-6, 6-2, 6-2; Milagros Sequera, Venezuela, def. Mary Pierce (1), France, 6-4, 6-0.

Doubles semifinals results: Li Ting and Sun Tian Tian (4), China, def. Yan Zi and Zheng Jie, China, 7-6 (7), 6-2; Els Callens, Belguim, and Meilen Tu (1), United States, def. Nana Miyagi, Japan, and Samantha Reeves (3), United States, 6-3, 6-3. *AFP*



SEQUERA backhands a shot to Pierce. AP

Cohen tops Skate Canada anew

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario—Sasha Cohen didn't land a jump combination, yet she was good enough to win her second straight women's singles title at Skate Canada.

The 19-year-old American, coming off a victory at Skate America, is thriving under the new scoring system being used in the six Grand Prix meets. Points are awarded for every facet of a skater's presentation. Cohen got 126.48 for her free skate Saturday for a total score of 197.60 for her fourth Grand Prix victory.

"This system is going to help me get the most out of my skating and help me be a better skater overall," she said.

In the men's competition, world champion Evgeni Plushenko of Russia, far from being at his best in his first meet of the Grand Prix season, earned 152.40 points for his free skate, and won the event with a 233.65 total. *AP*

Mauresmo vs Myskina for crown

VILLANOVA, Pennsylvania—Second-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France survived 5-1 deficits in the second set and second-set tiebreaker to beat No. 5 Ai Sugiyama of Japan and advance to the Advanta Championships final.

"I kept fighting, but it was tough to still believe in victory," Mauresmo said after a 3-6, 7-6 (6), 7-5 victory Saturday that took 2 hours, 35 minutes.

On Sunday, Mauresmo will play third-seeded Anastasia Myskina of Russia, who beat No. 7 Nadia Petrova, also Russian, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 in the other semifinal.

The hard-hitting Sugiyama appeared headed toward a quick and easy two-set win, using her compact backhand to rattle Mauresmo, No. 7 in the WTA rankings. Sugiyama won the final four games of the first set and jumped to a 5-1 lead in the second.

Then Mauresmo, with her right thigh taped, began to rally.

Relying on her long forehand, she won five straight games. Sugiyama kept approaching the net, but Mauresmo stayed low and smacked passing shots for easy points. Perhaps the comeback took something out of her, because Sugiyama went ahead, 5-1, in the tiebreaker.

Sugiyama, ranked 11th, then served for the match ahead, 6-3. But Mauresmo came back and won the next five points to take the set.

"It's a big comeback. It was one of the best," Mauresmo said.

Mauresmo, who missed four months of the season with right knee cartilage inflammation, struggled with her serve all night. She got her first serve in only 58.6 percent of the time, though she had five aces to Sugiyama's one. Mauresmo—whose top serve reached 109 mph (175 kph)—was still in the low 100s in the third set, but she double-faulted 10 times. *AP*

DRAFT QUALITY BEER
VALE46

ROSSI: Fantastic time REUTERS

Rossi zips to new qualifying lap mark

VALENCIA, Spain—Defending champion Valentino Rossi of Italy stormed to a new qualifying lap record Saturday, taking his ninth pole position of the year in the final of two qualifying sessions ahead of Sunday's MotoGP.

Rossi set a record time of 1:32.478 on his very last lap as time ran out on the one-hour MotoGP session.

"The last lap was very, very good," he said afterward. "I went 100 percent. It is a fantastic time. We are ready for the race tomorrow."

Rossi's record time beat Max Biaggi's record time from last year by 0.733 seconds.

Spain's Sete Gibernau also beat last year's pole time, coming in second at 1:33.148.

When Rossi starts the 16th and final round on Sunday, it may be the last time he rides for Honda. Strongly rumored to be heading to Yamaha for 2004, despite three dominating championship seasons with Honda, Rossi has promised a statement about his 2004 plans after Sunday's race.

Gibernau will start next to Rossi on the front row Sunday.

Row 1 will be filled out by Italy's Loris Capirossi, who finished at 1:33.275, and MotoGP rookie Nicky Hayden from the United States, whose time was 1:33.348.

Hayden's performance makes him the first American rider to start on the front row since the middle of the 2002 season.

"I'm just taking it one day at a time," said Hayden. "This is the last race of the year. There's no reason to hold back, it's time to go for it."

Straight-shooting Texan rider Colin Edwards, twice a Superbike champion, came in seventh, equaling his best qualifying performance of the year.

In the 250cc class, Randy De Puniet of France will take the top of the grid Sunday. His time of 1:36.499 was the fastest Saturday, though it fell 0.764 seconds behind the 2002 pole position lap record set by Marco Melandri.

"Pole position is good," said De Puniet, "but the race is more important."

Toni Elias of Spain, who clocked 1:36.590, will start in second position.

The 250cc championship leader, Manuel Poggiali, will start on the outside of row one, having come in at 1:36.735. *AP*

VIRTUOSO PERFORMANCE

Ronaldo keys Madrid win

MADRID—World Player of the Year Ronaldo produced a virtuoso performance to steer Real Madrid to a 3-0 win over Athletic Bilbao that sent them top of the Primera Liga on Saturday after Deportivo Coruna were held to a 0-0 draw by lowly Murcia.

The Brazilian striker, who had hit a minor drought after failing to score for three games, produced two brilliant finishes either side of the break and then served up a third for Luis Figo as he turned in a match-winning performance at the Bernabeu.

Earlier Deportivo, who lost 2-0 at home to Real Mallorca in midweek, turned in a lame performance in their goal-less draw against a determined Murcia at the Condomina stadium.

Real now lead the table with 23 points from 10 games, one ahead of Depor and three clear of Valencia, who made the trip to play Real Mallorca on Sunday.

Despite the apparently comfortable scoreline, Bilbao pushed Real hard throughout the 90 minutes and it took a string of stunning reflex saves from keeper Iker Casillas to keep the champions in the game early on and deny the visitors a deserved goal.

David Beckham, returning to the starting lineup after two games out with a pulled hamstring, showed little sign of his injury as he too produced a fine performance at the heart of the Real midfield.

The England captain sprayed a series of pinpoint passes around the pitch and came close to scoring with a well-struck dipping free kick in the second half.

But the former Manchester United player was fortunate to stay on the pitch when he escaped with just a booking—his third in 10 games—when he brought down Andoni Iraola as the Bilbao defender raced towards the Real area in the final minute of the half.

Bilbao made a sprightly start at the Bernabeu and created two clear scoring chances in the opening 10 minutes, but sharp saves from Casillas denied the Basques an early lead.

The Real keeper made a great point-blank save to block a bullet header from Santi Ezquerro on five minutes and then got down quickly to turn away a Jonan Garcia shot after a lightning break initiated by pacy winger Joseba Etxeberria.

The two sides proceeded to trade attacks in a pulsating first half, Casillas coming to Real's rescue twice more when he saved an Etxeberria effort with his foot and then tipped a goal-bound Tiko free kick over the bar.

But it was the deadly finishing of Ronaldo that finally broke the deadlock. Lurking inside the area, the Brazilian controlled a loose ball with his shoulder, turned sharply and sent a cracking right-foot shot fizzing inside the far post on 34 minutes.

Bilbao continued to press after the break, but once again it was Ronaldo's contribution that proved decisive.

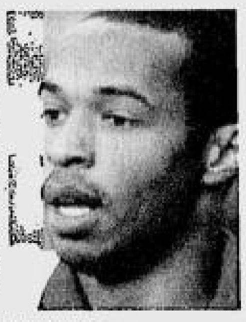
He fended off three Bilbao players with a dazzling jinking run before finishing off with a perfectly placed shot from the edge of the area..Reuters

HELGUERA
BE

RONALDO is hugged by teammates David Beckham and Ivan Helguera after he scored against Athletic Bilbao. REUTERS

Arsenal XI zaps Leeds, stays on top

LONDON—Arsenal hammered Leeds United, 4-1, to stay on top of the premier league on Saturday but there was no let-up in the pressure as champions Manchester United and title rivals Chelsea both clocked up victories.



HENRY

Thierry Henry scored twice and Robert Pires and Gilberto grabbed one apiece at Elland Road as Arsenal swept to an easy victory over struggling Leeds to stay top on 27 points.

But Chelsea remain just a point behind after Romanian striker Adrian Mutu got the only goal of their game at Everton, while third-placed United have 25 points after a 3-0 win over Portsmouth.

United, beaten at home by Fulham last weekend, made no such mistake at Old Trafford on Saturday as Diego Forlan gave them a first-half lead, Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo added his first for the club and fellow substitute Roy Keane smashed home a late third.

Elsewhere, Newcastle United drew 1-1 with 10-man Aston Villa after skipper Alan Shearer had a late penalty saved, Manchester City won 2-0 at Southampton and Tottenham Hotspur suffered their first defeat under caretaker boss David Pleat, losing 1-0 at home to Bolton Wanderers.

Saturday's defeat rounded off a miserable week for Leeds after they announced record losses for a premier league club of nearly 50 million pounds ($84.69 million) and debts of 78 million pounds.

Matters on the pitch for Peter Reid's side fared no better as Arsenal accelerated into a 3-0 lead by halftime after a series of counter-attacks to keep Leeds second from bottom.

Reuters

OKLAHOMA running back Renaldo Works (left) stretches for extra yardage as he is tackled by Oklahoma State defensive back Jamar Ransom. AP

White helps Sooners rout foes

NORMAN, Oklahoma—Jason White threw for two touchdowns and ran for another and Oklahoma's defense was dominant once again in the top-ranked Sooners' 52-9 rout of Oklahoma State.

In ending a two-game losing streak against the Cowboys, Oklahoma (9-0, 5-0 Big 12) remained on track for the Big 12 title and a spot in the BCS' national title game.

DeJuan Jones added two touchdowns for the Sooners, who have the nation's longest winning streak at 11 games.

The defeat dropped the Cowboys (7-2, 3-2 Big 12) a game behind Texas and into third place in the Big 12 South, all but ending their hopes of a BCS game.

In Jacksonville, Florida, Matt Leach slipped a 33-yard field goal inside the left upright with 33 seconds left to lift Florida past Georgia, 16-13.

The Gators (6-3, 4-2 Southeastern Conference) kept alive a most improbable run at the SEC title by defeating Georgia (7-2, 4-2) for the 13th time in the last 14 playings of The World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party.

Leach's third field goal of the game was set up by a beautiful 66-yard drive highlighted when freshman Chris Leak dropped a 20-yard pass to Ben Troupe into a gap in the Georgia zone for a first down at the Georgia 47.

In South Bend, Indiana, Chris Rix passed for 327 yards and three touchdowns to lead Florida State over Notre Dame, 37-0, the second worst home loss in Irish history.

Craphonso Thorpe had seven catches for 217 yards, including TD catches of 35 and 38 yards to help the Seminoles (8-1) get revenge for an embarrassing 34-24 loss to the Irish last year. *AP*

Kiplagat heads strong NY Marathon women's field

NEW YORK—The little girls who live in the tiny Kenyan village where Lornah Kiplagat grew up might never have been to New York or know much about the city.

But when Kiplagat tells them she is running in a marathon, only one place comes to mind.

"New York is everything to everybody," Kiplagat said. "Running a marathon here is special, and everyone wants to do it."

Kiplagat will be part of one of the strongest women's fields in the New York City Marathon on Sunday. Four of the top 10 marathoners are competing—Kiplagat, Margaret Okayo, Catherine Ndereba and defending champion Joyce Chepchumba.

"New York is the best place to be and the best marathon you can race," said Kiplagat, who became a Dutch citizen this year.

The men's race is wide open. Defending champion Rodgers Rop is back, along with runner-up Christopher Cheboiboch and third-place finisher Laban Kipkemboi. Rop had a disappointing finish in this year's Boston Marathon and hopes to rebound in New York.

"I'll be looking to win again," Rop said. "This year, my preparation has been going well, so I think everything will go smoothly."

There are several other quality female marathoners in the field. American Marla Runyan finished fourth last year, and Ludmila Petrova and Adriana Fernandez are former NYC marathon champions.

Okayo set the course record of 2 hours, 24 minutes, 21 seconds in 2001, and Ndereba enters as the reigning world marathon champion. If Ndereba wins, she will join Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway as the only women to win the New York, Boston and Chicago marathons.

If Kiplagat wins, she will receive a $100,000 bonus because she won the New York Mini 10K this year.

"We have an incredible field, even more competitive than last year," Runyan said. "With the addition of Catherine, and Lornah being as fit as she is now, I am expecting a very fast race. I really think the course record's going to go this year."

Ndereba thinks the high level of competition will help her run faster.

"When you have all those good competitors, you have a chance to push your body to do its best," Ndereba said. *AP*

JOHN M. Milito, executive chef of the Tavern on the Green restaurant at New York's Central Park, uses a shovel to stir one of the huge vats used to cook some of the 4,000 gallons of pasta used to feed marathon runners on the eve of the New York City Marathon. REUTERS

Mayweather knocks out Ndou, retains WBC lightweight title

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan—Floyd Mayweather Jr. wanted to put on a good show for his hometown fans.

Did he ever?

Mayweather, considered by some the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, retained his WBC lightweight championship in convincing fashion Saturday night with a seventh-round knockout of Phillip Ndou.

Mayweather dominated the South African and delighted the thousands of partisan fans in attendance at Van Andel Arena with a flurry of combinations, including three consecutive straight rights that floored Ndou midway through the seventh.

Mayweather (31-0, 21 KOs), a native of Grand Rapids who now lives and trains in Las Vegas, was so in charge of the fight that at times he allowed a hurt Ndou to throw a few weak punches while he played to the crowd.

"I wanted to throw a lot more punches, give the fans a war," said Mayweather, who improved to 13-0 in world championship fights. "My plan was to stand in the pocket and give some shots, and take some shots."

Ndou (31-2, 30 KOs) is known for throwing a lot of punches without much regard for defense, and he lived up to his reputation.

The 26-year-old fighter connected with some punches, but he was on the receiving end of numerous Mayweather straight right hands, left hooks and body shots.

"I fought the best in the world, Floyd Mayweather, and he's something special," Ndou said. "You can't take anything away from him. He's the champion."

Mayweather, also 26, probably was fighting for the last time at his current weight. He confirmed after the fight that he will move up to 140 pounds for his next bout.

Mayweather's previous professional fights in his hometown have at times been underwhelming. He even was booed at one of them.

"It's a great feeling to come home and give the fans a solid fight," he said. "He was a big puncher, but I have granite for a chin."

The first three rounds featured some decent exchanges, but the fourth is when the slugfest began.

In that round, Mayweather was successful with a number of straight right-left hook combinations. For much of the fourth, the fighters exchanged punches in the middle of the ring without any attempt to move.

In the fifth, Mayweather connected on a series of straight rights and lefts, and when Ndou wouldn't go down, Mayweather gave a little smile and then continued the barrage. *AP*

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SPORTS

SAMPAGUITA STAKES

Golden Ballet avenges loss to Material Maker

By Edwin Villanueva

GOLDEN Ballet exacted sweet revenge on Material Maker yesterday by ruling the Sampaguita Stakes convincingly at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Narrowly beaten by Material Maker in the Golden Girls Stakes, Golden Ballet made sure there won't be another setback at the Carmona, Cavite racetrack as she sped home to a three-length victory in the 1,900-meter contest.

"May bilis pa pero kailangan pang magbawas kasi medyo mabigat pa ang katawan (She still has speed but she needs to lose some weight)," said Jonathan Hernandez, Golden Ballet's regular rider.

After lagging second to last in the early going, Golden Ballet made a daunting run at mid-backstretch before she collared Material Maker and Hazmoore at the far turn en route to the easy win worth P600,000.

Material Maker, handled by Pat Dilema, eventually came in second, while Dandansoy finished third followed by Mica's Magic, Successful Dream, Windlass, Bulakeña, Serena and Hazmoore in that order.

Golden Ballet, who stunned the field that included the celebrated Wind Blown in the First Gentleman's Silver Cup last April, picked up her fourth victory in six starts thus far at the SLLP. Overall, it was her 15th win in 22 starts.

The four-year-old bay filly by Treasure Cay out of Likeable Style covered the race in 2:03.5 (19.5-24-26.5-26-27.5).

The day also belonged to Hernandez, who earlier piloted Cosanne to first place in the Post Derby race and later skippered Earl Gray to an upset win over the highly-touted High Octane in a Class 3, Division 2AB contest.

Cosanne, an imported five-year-old bay mare by Grand Lodge out of Cuddled, bucked a heavy 58.5-kilo load to outkick Union Square down the stretch and prevail by a length in the 1,400-meter event.

Hernandez followed up his victorious ride atop Golden Ballet with another splendid job on board Putch Puyat's Earl Gray.

Despite carrying the top weight of 58.5 kilos, Earl Gray (Hazm-Foinery) rallied to edge Hermie Esguerra's High Octane (Hazm-Rosegardenqueen) by half a length in the biggest reversal of the day.

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MELBOURNE CUP ENTRY
Godolphin stables horse Mamool, ridden by Seamus O'Gorman, works out at Sandown race track in Melbourne, Sunday. Mamool is listed as one of the favorites for Australia's biggest horse race, The Melbourne Cup, which will run on Nov. 4. REUTERS

Django, Bata joining Japan 9-ball tourney

FILIPINO billiards aces Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Efren "Bata" Reyes left for Japan yesterday to see action in the Tokyo 9-Ball tournament starting tomorrow.

Bustamante and Reyes will first play in an exhibition game in Nagoya before proceeding to Saitama City for the 2003 edition of the Tokyo tournament.

Thirty of the best pool players in the world are seeing action in the event which has a total purse of $15,000.

"Dito na lang kami babawi sa 9-ball Tour *sa* Japan *ni Efren," said the 38-year-old Bustamante.*

Puyat Sports chief Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, the acknowledged godfather of Philippine billiards, said he is optimistic that Reyes and Bustamante will perform well in Japan.

Aside from Bustamante and Reyes, likewise competing are Johnny Archer of the US, Ralf Souquet of Germany and Charlie "The Korean Dragon" Williams, also of the US.

Qualifying rounds for the meet will take place Nov. 4-6 at Eagle Koshigaya, also in Saitama.

The Final 4 matches will be broadcast on Saitama TV, which covers the entire Tokyo area. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

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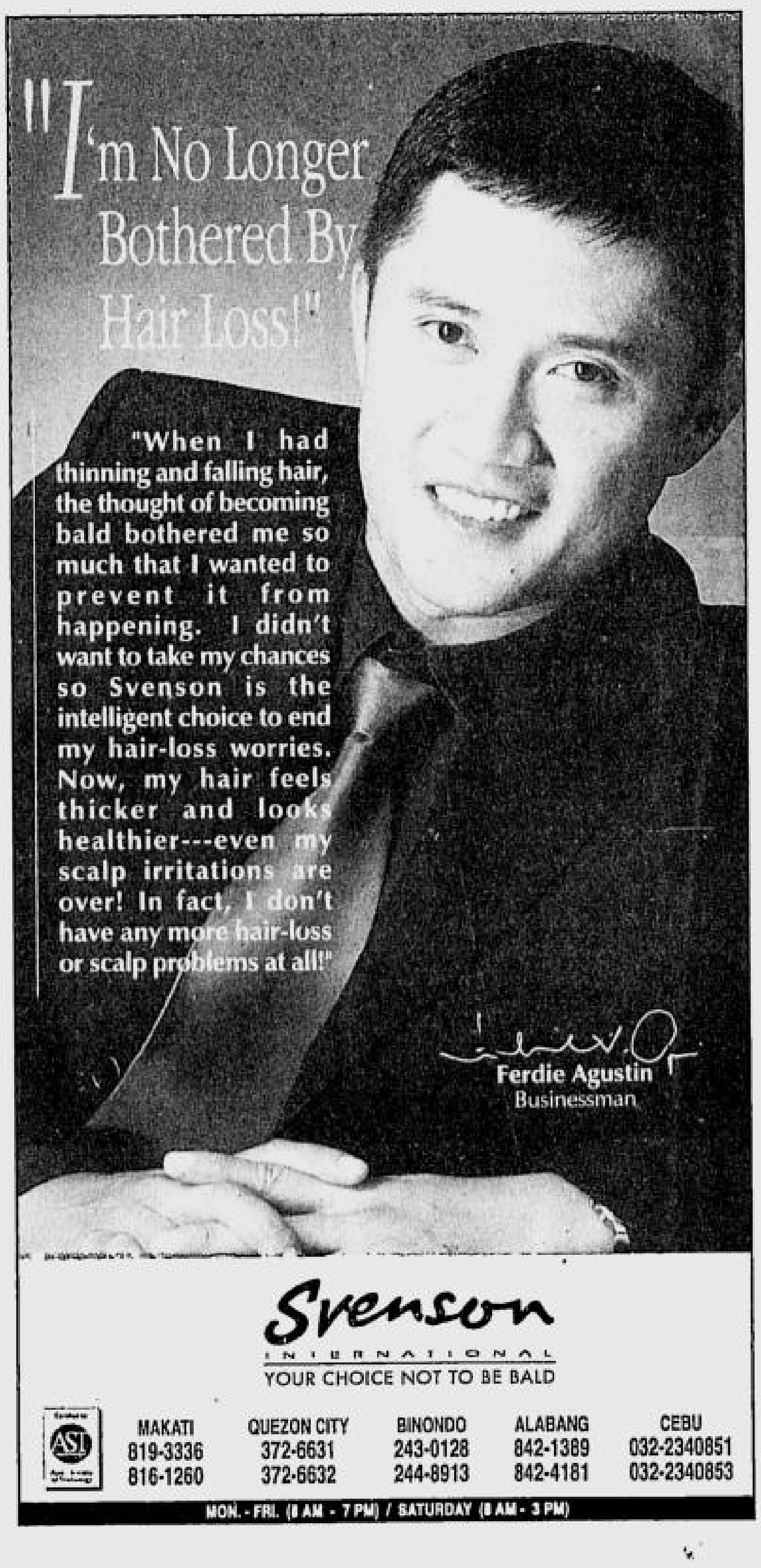
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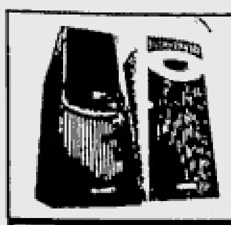
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Gov't raises tariffs on finished products

By Michelle V. Remo

MALACAÑANG issued recently an executive order raising the tariff rates on 464 product lines to provide local industries reprieve from tough competition posed by cheap imports.

Executive Order No. 241, signed in early October, covers finished products, the importation of which at lower tariffs posed unfair competition to their locally made counterparts.

The order increased from 10 percent to 15 percent the tariffs on 146 items (including footwear); from 15 to 20 percent that tariffs on 36 items (including clothing and linen), and from a range of 5-7 percent to 10 percent the rates on 184 products.

The tariff increases on finished products represent the first phase of the ongoing tariff review being conducted by the inter-agency Committee on Tariff and Related Matters, where the Department of Trade and Industry, the National Economic Development Authority and other government agencies are members.

With the tariff review on finished products now completed, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the CTRM would immediately begin the review of the tariffs imposed on imported raw materials.

Roxas said the tariffs imposed on imported finished products that directly compete with local products were given priority in the review to help local industries to recover from the ill effects of the free trade environment.

The review covers MFN (most favored nations) tariff rates imposed on 1,292 product lines (out of the existing 5,000 tariff lines).

The increased rates on the said finished products will be imposed starting this year to 2005 when a new rate structure will be implemented.

Among the 1,292 tariff lines covered by the review, 828 will be maintained.

"In all of these adjustments, we balanced the interest of the manufacturers as well as that of the consumers, being mindful that increases in tariffs translate to increases in prices," said Roxas in a briefing with reporters.

He noted that the ongoing tariff review was the first ever conducted by the government to cover a significant number of MFN tariff lines.

Roxas said the Tariff Commisson, which is also a member of the CTRM, had estimated that the planned tariff adjustments will generate additional tariff revenue of P1.3 billion yearly.

The move to review the country's MFN tariff rates was an offshoot of the call from various local industries for protection in view of the stiff competition they had to face following the government's move to significantly reduce tariff rates.

The Federation of Philippine Industries blamed the government for setting the country's tariff rates to levels much lower than what were required by the World Trade Organization and than those imposed by other countries.

Mindanao assured of enough power

By Christine A. Gaylican

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—National Power Corp. has assured the Mindanao business community that the government has concrete plans aimed at averting a looming power shortage in Mindanao next year.

Napocor senior vice president Pio Benavidez said at the Mindanao Business Conference that the Cabinet through the Unified Power Task Force led by the Department of Energy had identified power generation and transmission projects that would increase the power supply to the island.

The Mindanao business community is concerned that there is not enough power to supply the region's growing electricity demand. Napocor earlier estimated that by early 2004, there would not be enough power reserves that could be tapped for the entire region.

"The Unified Power Task Force has pre-selected the power generation and transmission projects that should be installed beginning next year and address the power requirements of the booming Mindanao economy," Benavidez said.

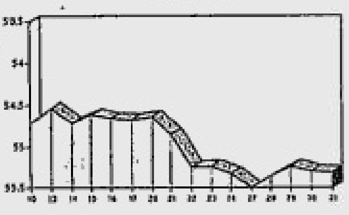
The other members of the Unified Power Task Force are Napocor, National Transmission Corp., the National Electrification Administration and Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corp.

However, the Napocor official noted that these power projects might require not less than P15 billion to P20 billion in new investments.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

OCTOBER



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PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

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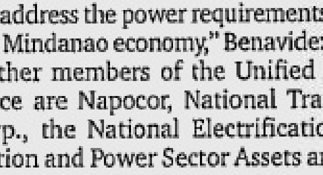


(See stock market report on Page B6)

Market seen firming up

LOCAL stocks are seen to firm up this week as investors continue to sift through favorable third quarter corporate results, while global economic outlook continues to improve.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange composite index jumped 35.67 points or 2.62 percent from a week ago to close at 1,399.07 on Friday, hitting an 18-month high.

"We should still see a volatile market but with an upside bias," said Summit Securities president Harry Liu.

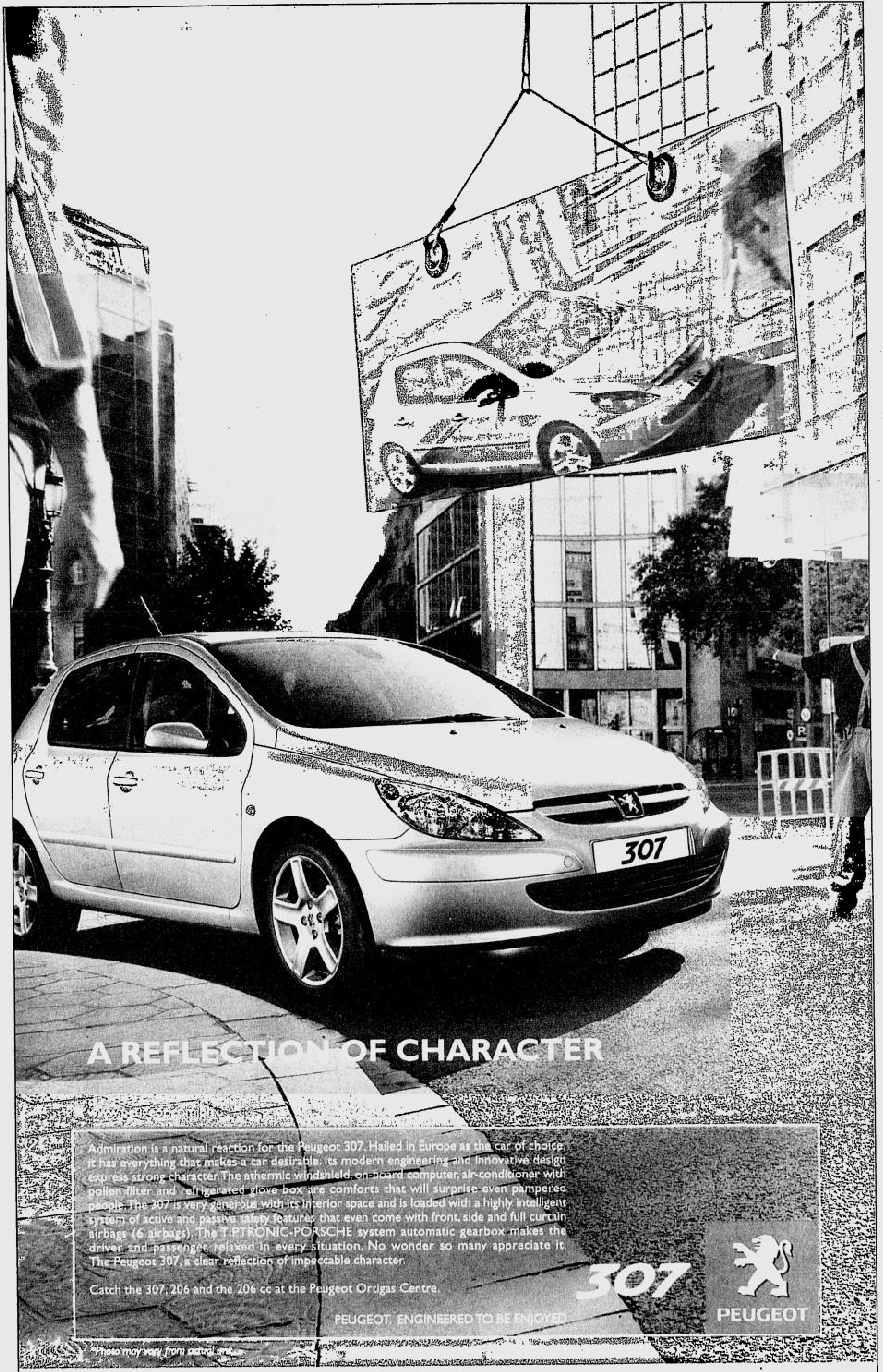
Liu said the market still had some more room to go up, with the next resistance at 1,430.

"But the volume has not been big enough to sustain an uptrend," Liu said.

He noted that blue chips like Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and SM Prime Holdings Inc. would continue to propel index gains.

Analysts said the market's gains last week reflected the generally favorable turnout of corporate results for the third quarter.

MARKET/ B6



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Trade and tested

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ACTUALLY the poor guy spoke on condition that reporters should not step too much on his feet. They also promised to shove voice recorders into his mouth only a few at a time.

He was none other than the tried-and-tested Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II. He met recently with US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

In the meeting, Roxas reportedly told Ricciardone that this country would keep its stand in the WTO against things like farm subsidies in rich countries.

Now their meeting took place after the recent visit of Pareng Dubious to Manila. This was not intended as an endorsement of Gloriaetta by the US for 2004. Honest.

***

AT the receiving end of our bombs, *este*, "stand" which we took in the WTO together with other poor countries, were the world's richest countries like the United States.

Still, Roxas insisted that Ricciardone did not convey any US government, er, "request" (which is different from "demand") for us to change our anti-US position.

And so we will defy the US, according to Roxas, despite that country's exerting absolutely no (zero, zilch, nada), ahh, "request" on us to change our mind. Is that it?

It's just that, as Roxas put it, Ricciardone only asked if our position was the same as before. For a moment, I thought that Roxas, and not Ricciardone, was the diplomat.

***

ANYWAY, business is testing this cute administration on its trade policy, since everybody is already hurting from all that too fast and furious tariff cut.

Some even say that the tariff issue can either make or break Gloriaetta in 2004. It is one way for her to show a little decisiveness. Do something, boss, before it's too late!

Under Executive Order 334, with which Gloriaetta nevertheless had nothing to do, as it was issued by the previous administration, business is facing more punishment.

It requires more tariff cuts. For certain goods, tariffs will be down to zero by January 2004. That's only two months away. Do you know where to find your next job?

***

FOR it does not matter to the half a million people who lost their jobs, and to those who are about to lose theirs, that Gloriaetta had nothing to do with the stupid tariff cut policy.

What's important to them is that she is now in a position to do something about the problem of ever increasing number of jobless due to factories closing down.

Only three years ago in 2000, based on official figures, some 2,260 firms closed down. The next year the number went up by 27 percent, or about 2,860 companies.

Last year, the figure went up to about 3,300 companies. It is going up faster and faster, accelerating, and you can imagine how many more will close down.

***

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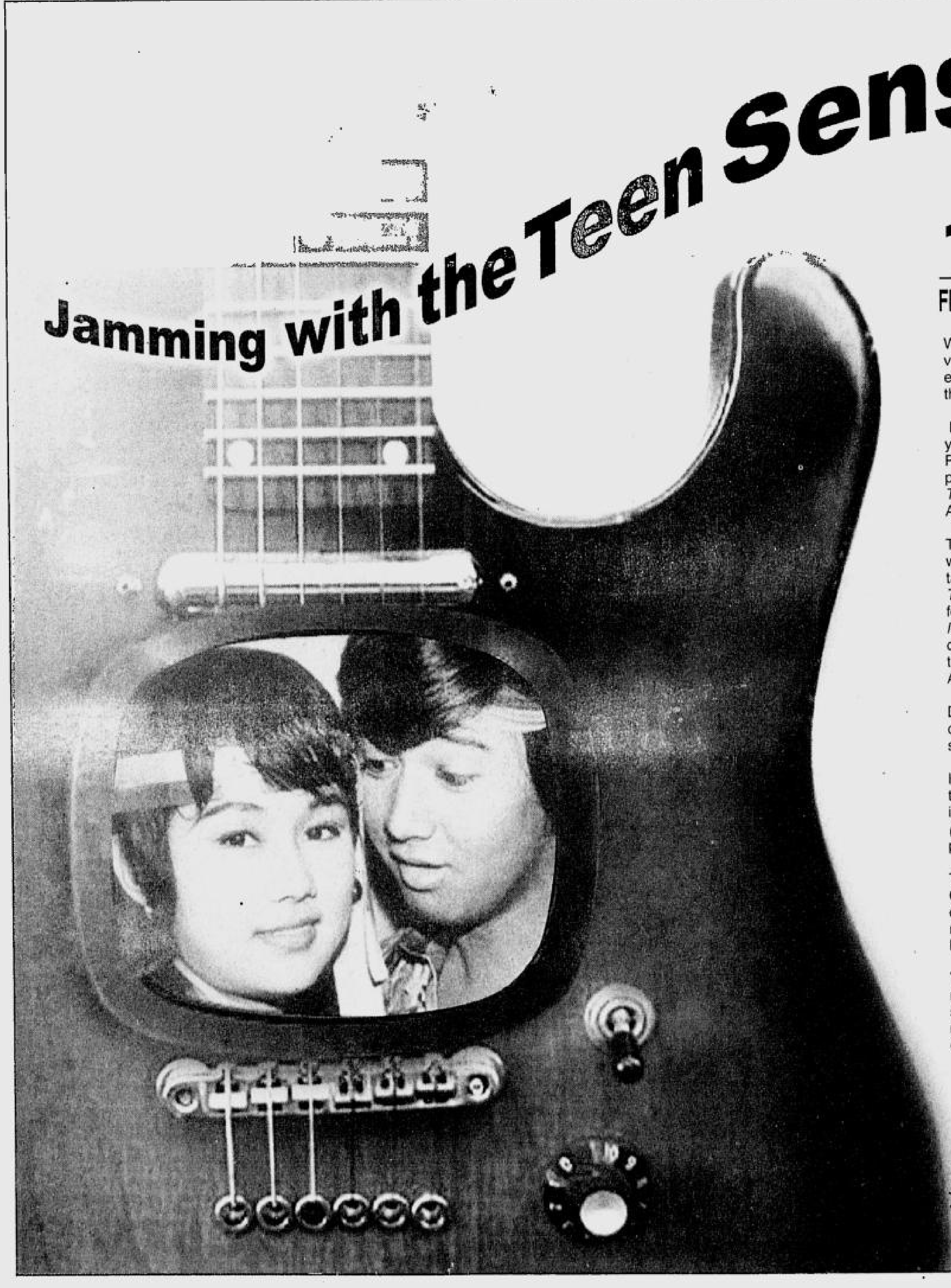
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With wholesome performances from the freshest and most vibrant stars, ABS-CBN started the trend of delighting and entertaining what was then considered as an untapped market – the youth.

It was in 1961 when ABS-CBN tested the waters in capturing the youth audience with *Jam Session*, the very first teen program in Philippine television hosted by Bobby Ng. Inspired by the prospect of attracting young viewers, ABS-CBN puts up *Nine Teeners* in 1966, this time with Jose Mari Chan and Roman Asanza as hosts.

The youth-oriented show genre soared to new heights in 1970 when ABS-CBN programming executives decided to bank on the talents of versatile young actress Vilma Santos and *Tawag ng Tanghalan* champion Edgar Mortiz. This move gave birth to the formidable love team of Vi and Bot which was launched on *Edgar loves Vilma*, a sitcom targeting the youth. And with the tandem's capability to draw in young viewers, they were again paired off in the widely popular Sunday variety show *D' Sensations* with Perla Adea, Romy Mallari, Sonny Cortez, Ike Lozada and Angge.

Discovering young and bright talents has always been a tradition of ABS-CBN, an unfaltering move which gave the network its source of professional and loyal stars through the years.

In 1991, the tradition was made into an institution as it introduced the first ever network-based talent pool in the broadcasting industry with the *Talent Development and Management Center (TDMC)*. And with the youth-oriented afternoon show *"Ang TV,"* potential stars were picked out among a group of young talents.

Today, the network's top-caliber artists like Patrick Garcia, Claudine Barretto and Piolo Pascual, all products of the same crafts school, *ABS-CBN Talent Center* under *TDMC*, have not just received commendations from various award-giving bodies but have also won the hearts of Filipinos.

Young blood energizes and invigorates Pinoy TV. With this realization, ABS-CBN never stops looking for innovative ways of staying true to its tradition of putting together the newest and most promising breed of young stars for the Filipino people to enjoy.

50 YEARS ABS-CBN TELEVISION SINCE 1953
In The Service Of The Filipino

SEC cracks whip on club

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

FED up with the continued defiance of their orders, chair Lilia Bautista and the SEC en banc have ordered SEC personnel to they themselves get copies of the stockholders' list, stock and transfer book, and proxy documents from the Baguio Country Club.

The Oct. 28 order directed Annie Tesoro, chief of SEC Baguio, to proceed to the BCC office in Baguio while another team was directed to go to the BCC Manila office in Ramon Magsaysay building on Roxas Blvd. and get photocopies of the documents.

The club is scheduled to hold a stockholders' meeting on Thursday under SEC supervision but the BCC board, led by Rep. Rodolfo Albano (chair) and Couples for Christ stalwart Federico Agcaoili (president), has even sued Bautista and the SEC to prevent the club from, among other things, disclosing the membership records to other members.

The latest SEC directive comes amid findings that five of the biggest corporate shareholders of the club, owning a total of 408 shares, are not even registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The SEC also wants to examine the BCC stock and transfer book to find out why the number of shareholders has ballooned to 2,358 from the last report of 2,262 shares in 1997.

Among those admitted as members of the exclusive club during those intervening years were Jinggoy Estrada, Erap fugitive pal Jaime Dichavez, and Erap lawyer, retired Chief Justice Andres Narvasa.

In view of Thursday's shareholders' meeting, the BCC board, as well as Copa founders Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco and Pastor Saycon, has been actively soliciting proxies from the members in pursuit of their plan to convert the corporation into a non-stock, non-profit company.

Other than shielding the BCC from corporate taxation, the conversion into a non-stock corporation would also prevent parents-shareholders from transferring their shares to their children-heirs since membership would no longer be automatically passed on after the planned conversion.

Pending the conversion, the BCC has altogether stopped holding annual stockholders' meeting and even extended the term of its board members to two years, contrary to the one-year provision mandated by the Corporation Code of the Philippines and explicit order of the SEC.

In the last stockholders' meeting held in 2001, BCC vice president for legal affairs Lorna Kapunan and corporate secretary Victoria de los Reyes ruled out any individual voting, despite protests from Manila-based members who motored all the way to Baguio, and simply cast the management proxies in behalf of the current board.

As a result of the BCC extraordinary maneuver, even former Philippine Stock Exchange chair Vivian Yuchengco, who was running for director, got zero votes despite her having solicited about 300 proxies.

Adventure in Avenida

DOÑA Chito Madrigal should be enjoying her billions now that she is in her golden years. Instead, the matriarch is occasionally seen at the armpit district of Sta. Cruz in Manila supervising the construction of her new building on Avenida Rizal.

Called Shoppers' Gold Inc., the 5 ½-floor building is being rushed in time for the redevelopment of what used to be Manila's Golden Mile. A joint venture with the family of investment banker Benjamin Bitanga, the new Madrigal building is being built on the ruins of the old State theater and will be linked with the Carriedo station of the LRT.

Despite electricians still laying miles of wires, all 260 shops within the open-door mall have already been leased for the standard 15 years at P160,000 for every square meter.

As a result of Mayor Lito Atienza's redevelopment vision, where the stretch of Avenida from Carriedo to C.M. Recto has been closed off to vehicular traffic, building owners along the cordoned block have been spurred to spruce up their respective pieces of property.

It also helps that City Hall has given the property owners a five-year tax break; the flip side of the offer is that failure to redevelop would mean being slapped right away with stiffly higher real estate taxes.

Because of the incentive, Art Deco structures that line up the commercial district like the Arguelles building and Ever theaters are being given a new lease on life.

According to the grapevine, the market plan of the area merchants, given that two LRT lines will intersect the Avenida and C.M. Recto crossroad, is to wean away shoppers from going to next-door Divisoria by offering Divisoria goods at Divisoria prices.

To relieve the parking shortage, Madrigal is also planning to convert another property near Plaza Goiti into a carpark.

Heard through the grapevine

THE CONFIRMATION of Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita is being held up at the Commission on Appointments by the lone opposition of UP Professor Firdausi Abbas who is mouthing the Oakwood mutineers' line that the military has been sponsoring terroristic bombings in Muslim Mindanao.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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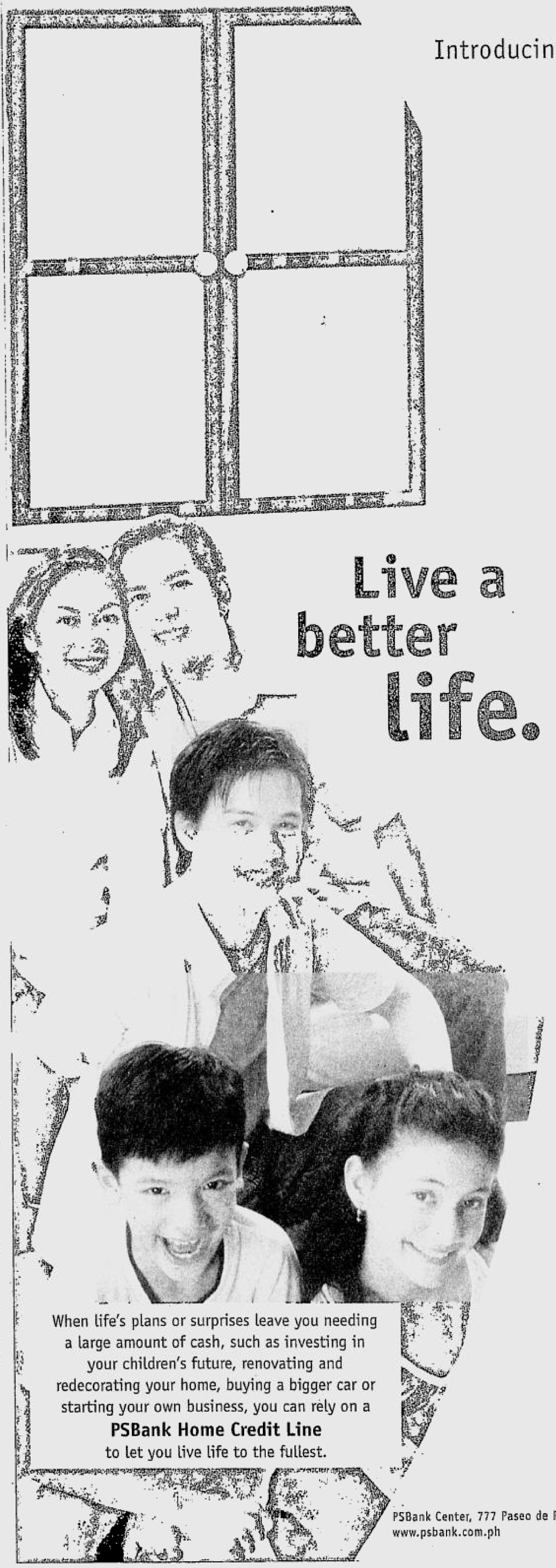
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BancNet

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By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

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Trade and tested

From page B2

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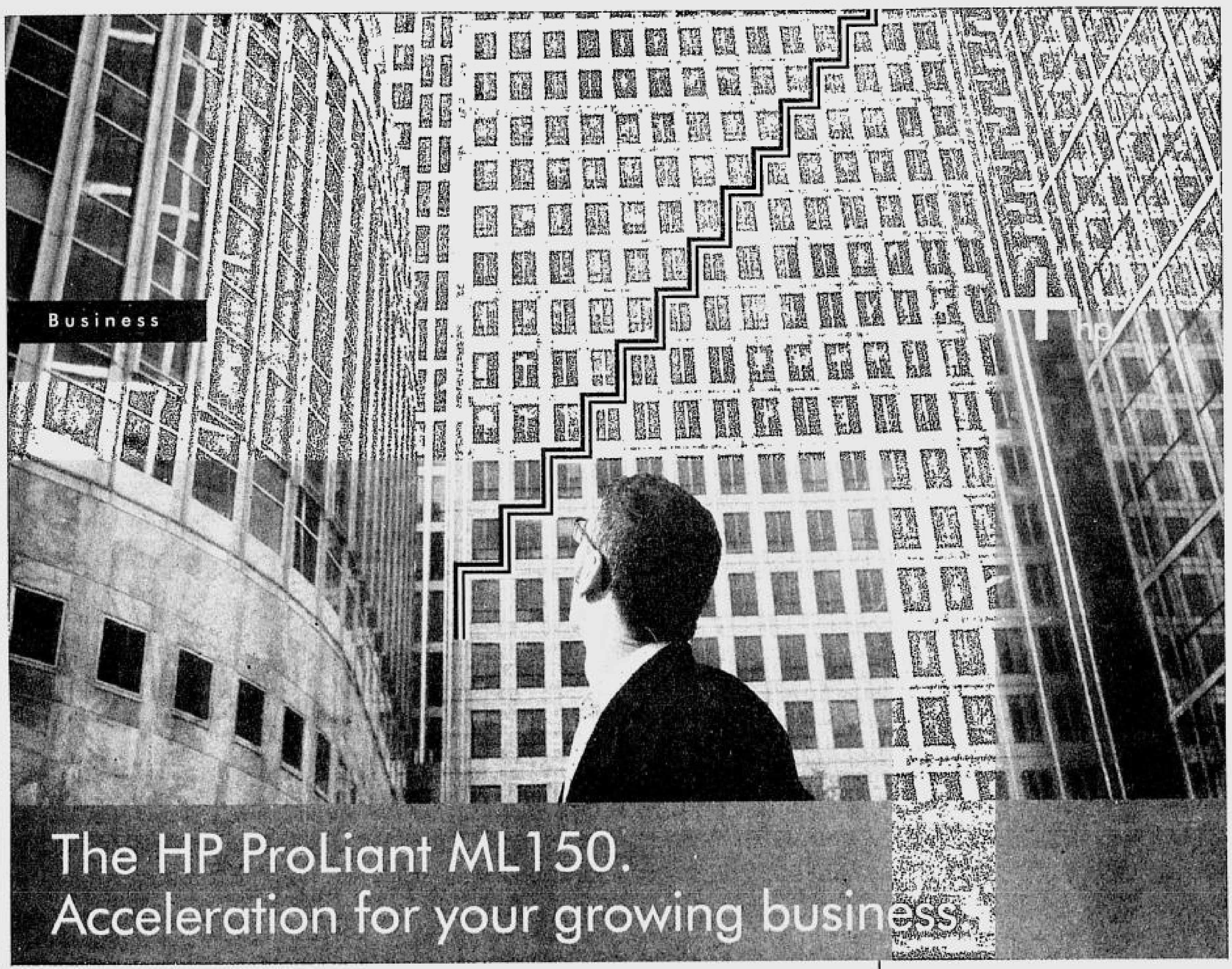
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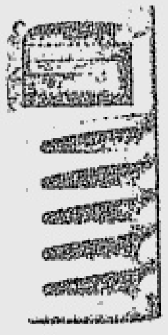

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Philhealth: Fight over doctors' bills

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

PHILHEALTH'S rules on the payment of professional fees are changing the traditional relationship between doctor and patient. I am not sure the change is for the better.

If you check in at a hospital, the admission clerk asks you whether or not you are a member of Philhealth. If you are, and you have your ID card to prove it, you are given two Philhealth forms. Before you can go home, you, the doctor, and the hospital will have to fill up these forms and submit them to the billing section.

Philhealth benefits are quite modest. At best, they are no more than 20 percent of your total hospital and doctor's bills. You have to cough up the 80 percent balance out of your own pocket. Or if you have some other insurance policy, like an HMO, you may also get the balance from there.

The final bill computed by the billing section is net of Philhealth benefits for hospital services, if that is how you want your bill computed. You can also arrange with your doctor beforehand that the corresponding Philhealth benefit be deducted from the professional fee.

In due course, the hospital sends the two forms to Philhealth.

Effectively, the hospital is filing a claim on your behalf. Usually within 60 days, Philhealth pays the hospital and the doctor under separate checks.

You can also choose to pay all the hospital and doctor's bills gross of any Philhealth benefits. In which case, you may file your claim directly with Philhealth. To support your claim, you have to submit the two forms duly filled up by you, the hospital and the doctor. The forms will then include statements from the hospital and the doctor waiving their rights to any Philhealth payments. The Philhealth check will be in your name.

Problems crop up when there is no clear understanding between doctor and patient on how the professional fee will be paid. As a rule, doctors do not like asking patients to sign written agreements on how the Philhealth benefits will be taken into account in the professional fee.

This is particularly true in emergency cases where the doctor treats the patient right away and discusses the fee later. Also in emergency cases and at the patient's plea, the doctor accepts the Philhealth benefit as the final professional fee. The doctor takes a risk here because there is always the possibility that Philhealth might turn down the patient's claim.

Recently, my daughter Clarissa, an anesthesiologist, and her favorite surgeon Azon, had a misunderstanding with a patient. After performing a Caesarian operation, Azon issued a receipt for P25,000 covering "professional fees." Clarissa's share was P3,000. In due time, the checks from Philhealth arrived. Her check was for P1,800.

The patient claimed that the check, and that of Azon, should have gone to her. She said it was her understanding that, having already paid P25,000, all Philhealth benefits would be hers. She filed a complaint at Philhealth.

Initially, Clarissa and Azon felt like passing the checks on to the patient just to get rid of her. On second thought, they decided to explain to Philhealth Legal that their fee was way below the usual fee because they took the Philhealth benefits into account. There were hospital records to back them up.

The case is still pending, but they are confident that the complaint will be dismissed.

Now, Clarissa has a form, drafted by her lawyer, that she will ask every paying patient to sign before an operation. She feels sad because this ruins the professional relationship between doctors and patients. Her profession has just turned into a business.

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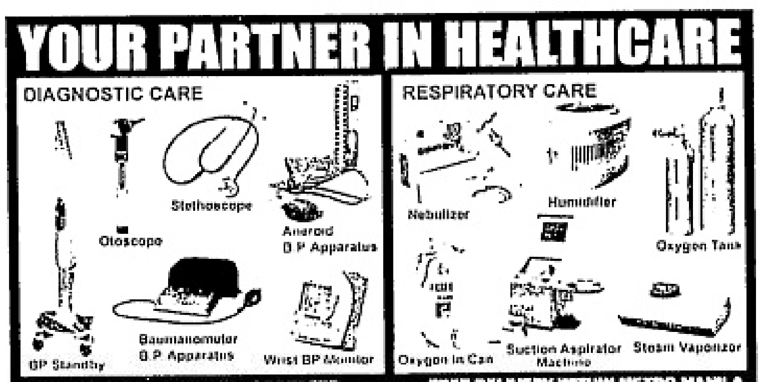

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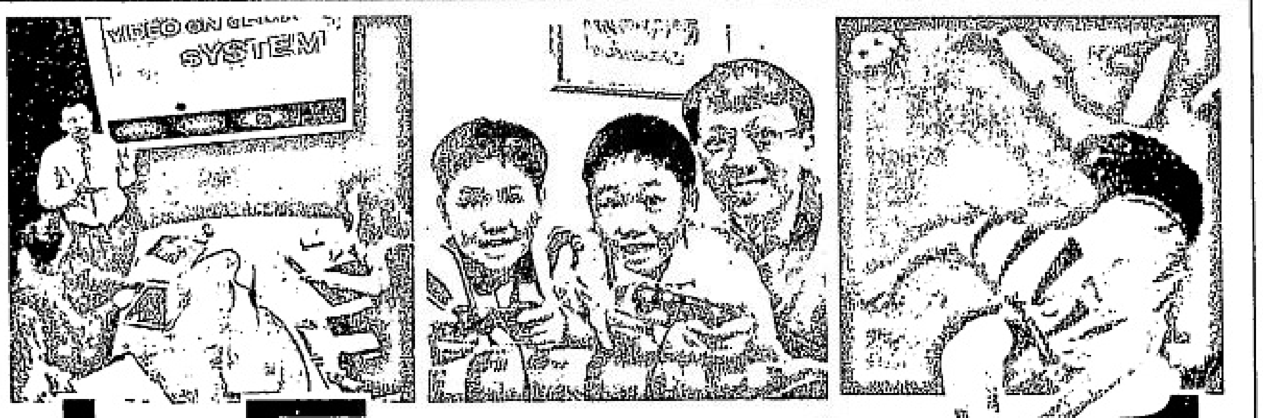

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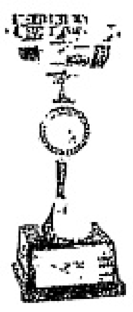

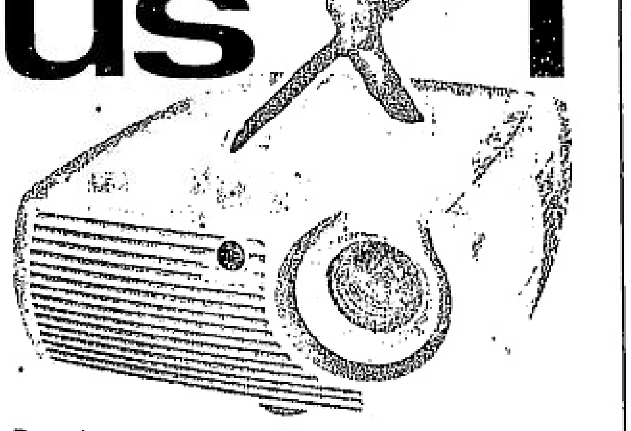

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Why the SPV Law isn't working

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

JUST about this time last year, we were keenly awaiting the passage of the long-pending bill that provided incentives for the establishment of asset management companies (AMCs), also known as asset recovery companies (ARCs), or special purpose (asset) vehicles (SPAVs or SPVs).

These are third-party entities set up to relieve the banks of assets that do not earn them anything—thus the term non-performing assets or NPAs.

All over the region, the Asian financial crisis had left in its wake billions in defaulted bank loans and foreclosed properties in the hands of the banks, representing huge amounts of idle, unproductive resources.

The SPV Law was widely expected to provide the ailing banking industry its much needed shot in the arm, thereby reviving the rest of the economy with fresh loanable funds for new investments.

Months after the enactment of the SPV Law and completion of its implementing guidelines by the Bangko Sentral, the response from the banks has been, well, underwhelming.

For something that was prioritized as an urgent economic measure and widely expected to be the needed cure for a sluggish financial sector, bankers now seem all but thrilled about this new law.

It seems all the anticipation for the law before its passage was misplaced. What went wrong?

SPV and NPAs: The theory

NPAs come in two forms. Non-performing loans (NPLs) are bank borrowings that may or may not be secured with collateral, usually real properties, whose borrowers have stopped servicing due to financial difficulties. Banks hang on to them with the hope that the distressed companies can still recover and eventually repay the loan, especially if a loan restructuring agreement can be reached with the borrower.

Real and other properties owned and acquired (Ropoa) are properties that end up in the possession of the banks after foreclosing on a loan and taking possession of the collateral.

Alternatively, such properties may be voluntarily turned over to the bank by a defaulting borrower as outright payment under what's called a dacion en pago agreement.

Both NPLs and Ropoa tie up large chunks of bank assets unproductively, each making up roughly half of the total NPAs currently in the system, which is about 30 percent of bank assets.

The theory behind the SPV Law is that if banks do not have to keep these NPAs in their books and can dispose of them through outright sale, banks would have much more funds available for lending and other income-generating activities.

By improving the financial position of the banks, they in turn are better able to service the financing needs of the economy, the economy is reinvigorated and everyone benefits.

In Indonesia and Thailand, the government set up the AMC directly, and bought up the banks' NPLs with taxpayers' money.

The banks' books were cleaned up almost overnight, and this is a major reason why their economies have bounced back very quickly. Our own government, with its falling revenue performance and precarious budget deficit, obviously cannot afford this route.

The policy has been to let the AMCs or SPVs to be set up by the private sector. Thus, the SPV Law sought to make it attractive for SPVs to be set up, both on the part of those who would invest in such entities, and on the part of the banks who would sell their NPLs to these SPVs.

This is achieved through various tax breaks and incentives provided on the transactions between banks and the SPVs.

Devil in the details

Alas, good intentions are all too often fouled up by our government's propensity for over-regulation and a general tendency to design rules from an attitude of distrust.

It appears that the implementing guidelines issued by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) are so restrictive as to virtually eliminate the attractiveness to banks of dealing with an SPV. My banker friends explain to me that under the rules put in place by the BSP to implement the law, it hardly makes sense for a bank to go the SPV route.

Among the offending provisions is the requirement that provisions for loan losses remain attached to an NPL, even after its transfer to an SPV in exchange (whether wholly or partly) for a financial instrument, usually a subordinated debt.

A loan loss provision is a portion of the bank's income that the BSP requires a bank to set aside to cover for the possibility that a questionable loan cannot be collected. Depending on the quality of the loan, BSP may require a bank to set aside 10, 25 or 100 percent of a loan's face value as loan loss provision.

While it is designed to force a bank to protect itself from being destabilized by a loan default, it is also a substantial cost to the bank as it ties up income.

In this kind of transaction, the SPV buys the bad loan either by paying a small part in cash (say 30 percent of the face value), and the remainder paid with a promissory note to pay cash once (and IF) the bad loan is collected on or otherwise turned into money.

But here's the clincher: the bank also has to provide loan loss provisions for the entire face value of the subordinated debt, staggered over seven years, even if the loan had been fully secured to begin with. All this makes it rather costly, and downright unattractive, for a bank to even go into such a deal.

Better off without it

In fact, under these circumstances, a bank is better off with the status quo and not sell the bad loan to the SPV at all. For a fully secured NPL, the required loan loss provision is just 10 percent. If it is foreclosed and turned into Ropoa, no income need even be tied up in such provision up to five years.

And even if it cannot be sold beyond five years, the maximum provision eventually required would be 50 percent, as against 100 percent if sold to an SPV for subordinated debt, on top of the original provision that the BSP requires to be attached to it.

In short, the only advantage the bank gains from selling NPLs to an SPV is the improved optics of having a lower NPL ratio, but the bank actually ends up with a worse financial position. The optics (of a lower NPL ratio) may be good, but the banks need cash!

No wonder the SPV Law isn't working. *Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

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Baguio Country Club	750,000	650,000
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Capital Hills	170,000	150,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	
Cebu Country Club	-	1,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	183,000	150,000
Club Filipino	175,000	140,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	300,000/450,000**	260,000
Eastridge	100,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	190,000/220,000*/250,000**	190,000**
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	10,700,000/12,000,000*	-
Manila Polo	2,300,000	2,100,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	430,000/500,000*	500,000*
Metropolitan Club	160,000	-
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	150,000/300,000*	115,000/250,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	230,000	-
Phil. Columbian	60,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	-	165,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	140,000/165,000*/180,000**	100,000
Rockwell Leisure Club	360,000	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	70,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,300,000/1,650,000*	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	830,000	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	650,000
Tat Filipinas A	-	130,000
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	250,000

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,150,000	1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	70,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	250,000
Canlubang	375,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	160,000	180,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	Please Call
Celebrity Sports Club	160,000	200,000
Club Filipino	130,000	175,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	175,000	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	10,800,000	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	10,100,000
Manila Polo	Please Call	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	450,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club		400,000
Metropolitan Club "A"		100,000
Mimosa (Individual)	115,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	250,000	275,000
Montemar (Corporate)	-	35,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	158,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	140,000	200,000
Rockwell	-	360,000
Sherwood Hills "A"		80,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	160,000
Spa & Lodge	600,000	700,000
Sta. Elena "A"	Please Call	1,300,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,300,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	830,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	250,000
Valley Golf	250,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,000,000	7,100,000

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CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB "B"	60k	-
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	200K
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	150k	150K
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	175k	-
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	-	please call
EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	80k	-
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"		please call
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"		300K
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "C"	-	300K
EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	85k	-
FOREST HILLS GOLF CLUB "A"	175k	
FOREST HILLS GOLF CLUB "C"	250K	-
FONTANA "D"	-	50k
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	-	210K
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind)	please call	please call
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	-	please call
MANILA POLO CLUB	please call	please call
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	530K	500K
MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB "C"	-	35K
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	please call	200K
PUNTA FUEGO	-	400K
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200K	175K
RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	120K	-
SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	-	100k
SPLENDIDO	300K	-
SPA & LODGE	-	600K
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "B"	-	1.3M
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB	840K	-
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	460K
VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	135K	-
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	7.2M	6.3M

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Alabang "B"		1,250,000
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Canlubang		450,000
Club Filipino		150,000
Orchard "C"		265,000
EastRidge	50,000	
Evercrest		50,000
Forest Hills(class A)	170,000	-
Fairways Blue Water		150,000
Makati Sports Club "A"		230,000
Makati Sports Club "C"		260,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,300,00
Mla. Southwoods		430,000
Punta Fuego		850,000
Quezon City Sports Club		175,000
Riviera		200,00
Royale Tagaytay "A"		pls. call
Royale Tagaytay (Corporate)		100,000
Tagaytay Country Club		pls. call
Tagaytay Highlands SPA		780,000
Valley Golf	250,000	270,000
Valle Verde((Indv.)	120,000	Pls. Call
Valle Verde (Corp.)	200,000	-

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(As of October 31, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.75	156,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	46	45	45.5	623,000
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	37	36	37	246,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	420,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	26.5	27.5	2,450,700
Philippine National Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	313,800
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	1,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	265,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1340	1340	1330	1330	900
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	42,600
Diversified Fin. Network	3	3	3	3	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.73	0.71	0.73	4,450,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	785	790	785	790	110,080
ISM Communications Corp.	0.043	0.044	0.042	0.043	15,900,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.84	0.86	0.83	0.84	6,090,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	700	775	755	765	962,390
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	54,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	110,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20.75	20.75	20.5	20.5	569,500
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.06	3,023,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	1,332,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
Union Cement Corp	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96	560,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	27,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	30.5	29.5	30.5	37,500
Jollibee Foods Corp	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	828,300
Swift Food Inc	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	57	56	57	145,700
San Miguel Corp. B	62	63	62	62.5	692,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hldg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	24,193,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.35	3.4	3.3	3.3	3,160,000
Alp Nat Holdings Inc	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	4,000,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	32,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	5,910,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.155	0.175	0.155	0.175	3,820,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	327,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18	18	18	18	622,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.095	0.09	0.095	600,000
Ionics Inc.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.64	226,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.16	25,394,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	4,360,000
Music Corp	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	180,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	480,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	160,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	25,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	60,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	8,240,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Manila Jockey Club	9	9	9	9	16,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	28.5	29	28.5	28.5	454,200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	9,050,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	110,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	140,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	6,930,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Empire East Land Inc	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	2,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	2,049,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	150,000
Keck Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	8,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.08	1.02	1.08	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.2	7,311,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.26	1.5	1.26	1.5	135,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.245	4,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	4,190,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.009	0.0095	0.009	0.009	86,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	115,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	300,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	700,000

CURRENCIES

November 2, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.857265324	1.000000	55.258000
Japan	Yen	0.007913	0.009231	0.510100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.455465	1.697800	93.817000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110485	0.128881	7.121700
Switzerland	Franc	0.644221	0.751484	41.525500
Canada	Dollar	0.653802	0.762660	42.143100
Singapore	Dollar	0.49376	0.575971	31.827000
Australia	Dollar	0.604134	0.704722	38.941500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.274034	2.652661	146.580700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.228604	0.266667	14.735500
Brunei	Dollar	0.492342	0.574317	31.735600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0001	0.000117	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021474	0.025050	1.384200
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	0.233422	0.272287	15.046000
Euro	Euro	1	1.166500	64.458500
Argentina	Peso	0.300795	0.350877	19.388800
Brazil	REAL	0.301642	0.351865	19.443400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134612	0.157025	8.676900
India	Rupee	0.018958	0.022114	1.222000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225626	0.263193	14.543500
Mexico	New Peso	0.077349	0.090228	4.985800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.52506	0.612482	33.844500
Norway	Kroner	0.121477	0.141703	7.830200
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014909	0.017391	0.961000
South Africa	Rand	0.1244	0.145113	8.018700
Korea	Won	0.000729	0.000850	0.047000
Sweden	Kroner	0.111039	0.129527	7.157400
Syria	Pound	0.020411	0.023810	1.315700
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025268	0.029499	1.630100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000538	0.000627	0.034600

Market seen firming up

From page B1

"Stocks are also going to benefit from the prevailing low interest rates abroad as this would help bring in more investible funds," said investment portal Philstocks.net.

Philstocks.net, for its part, said there were detrimental factors that could hinder the market's rally.

"There is still no conclusion to the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Hilario Davide and the race for next year's elections is just picking up steam," Philstocks.net said.

"If we also take valuation into consideration, the market's advance would likely be limited in the weeks ahead. Although we are not writing off a strong year-end rally, we believe that the market is ripe for some profit taking. The issue going forward is that to propel the market to higher levels, we're going to have to see a continuation of favorable sales and earnings results," it said.

Last week, the market was boosted by the stronger-than-expected growth of the US economy as well as the US Fed's decision to maintain low interest rates.

The US's gross domestic products grew by 7.2 percent year on year, topping the consensus expectation of 6.1 percent and overshadowing the 3.3 percent growth achieved in the second quarter, buoyed by tax cuts and low interest rates.

"A strong US economy is favorable to the Philippine economy, investments and exports. A growing US economy may help bring the dollars in, giving the local economy a shot in the arm," Philstocks.net said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Deficit seen exceeding 2003 ceiling of ₱202B

By Clarissa S. Batino

WITH three straight months of excessive spending, the government is now worried that it may slightly overshoot this year's budget deficit target of P202 billion especially if expenditures will continue to exceed the monthly ceilings in the fourth quarter.

A ranking finance official said the deficit by the end of the year could reach P210 billion.

Before collection agencies started missing goals, the government was confident it could even bring down this year's fiscal gap to a range of P178 billion to P185 billion.

The only way for the government to contain the deficit within the target this year was to implement tighter spending in the fourth quarter.

A major problem is the poor collection performance of the two two income-generating agencies. The Bureau of Internal Revenue collects 72 percent of the annual state income while the Bureau of Customs contributes about 19 percent.

Government officials said that in the last two months, revenue goals had become increasingly harder to meet and that the trend could continue in the last quarter of the year.

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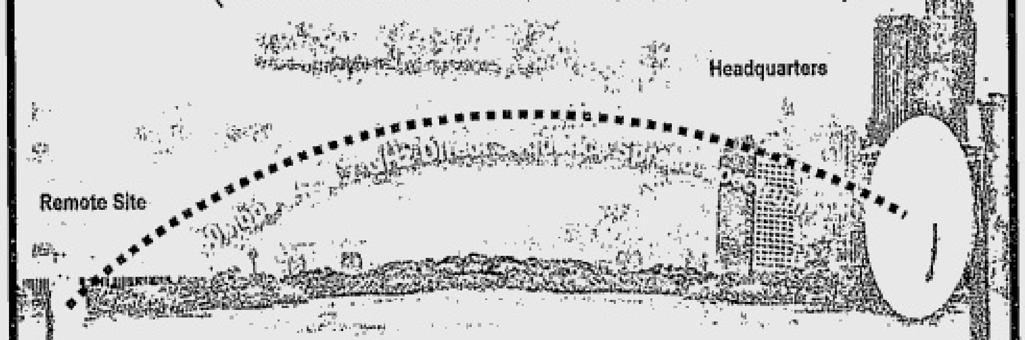

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SM Southmall, Las Pinas City (Tel No. 806-6521)

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UP Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman, Q.C.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Top 12 Qualifiers - February 28, 2004
Greenhills Christian Fellowship,
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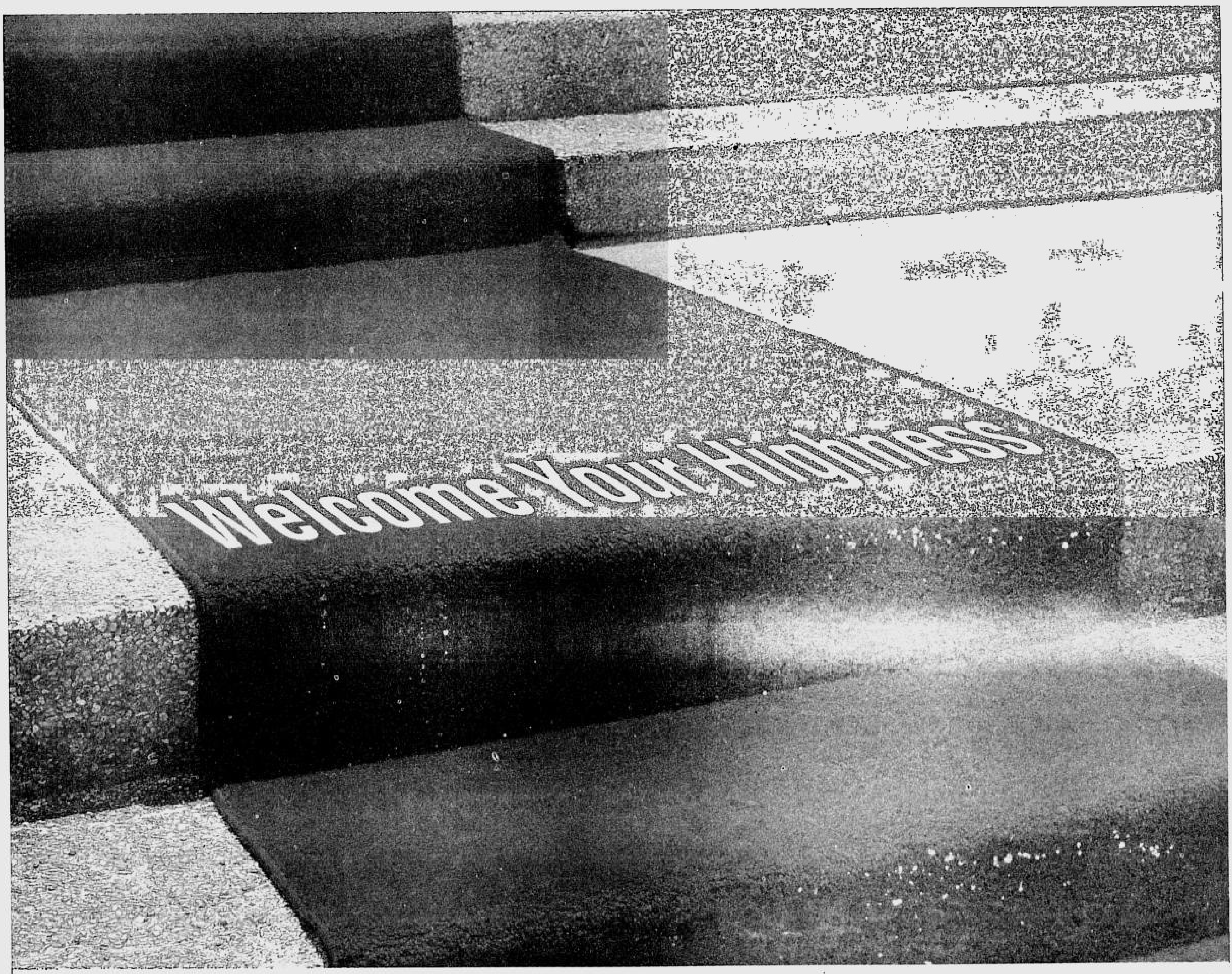

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Gov't readies sale of $300M worth of treasury bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration has asked seven foreign and local banks to submit underwriting proposals covering the sale of up to $300 million worth of short-term dollar-denominated government securities.

The proceeds from the sale of the dollar-denominated treasury bonds would form part of the planned cash reserves of $1 billion, which would be used to bankroll expenses slated next year.

The government said it would need about $1.8 billion next year, and has already raised about $800 million last month from the sale of $1.05 billion owrth of long-term global bonds.

"The minimum amount (for the offer) is $150 million but the government said it could issue as much as $300 million," said a banking source. The bonds would be floated over the next two months.

The government has decided to borrow next year's requirements this year to avoid paying higher interest rates as the country moves closer to the May presidential polls.

Invited to submit underwriting bids for the dollar treasuries include local groups First Metro Investment Corp. and the Land Bank of the Philippines and foreign investment banks Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, HSBC, ING, and Standard Chartered Bank.

Of the seven underwriters, sources said Metrobank affiliate First Metro and HSBC were strong contenders.

The first and only time the government sold dollar treasuries was in December 2001 through Citibank affiliate Citicorp Capital Phils.

The coupon or interest rate of the one-or-three year dollar treasuries would carry a spread over the benchmark London Interbank Offered Rate.

When the government sold $100-million worth of one-year bonds in 2001, the spread was 2.5 percentage points over one-year Libor.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said monetary authorities preferred that the national government borrow its 2004 requirements now while rates are reasonable.

DTI cautions local firms against raising cement prices

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has warned local cement manufacturers that it might be forced to withdraw its tariff protection against cement imports due to reports that local cement prices have been increasing.

The DTI suspected that some cement firms have been using the safeguard measure to jack up prices of local cement just after they were provided protection against foreign competitors.

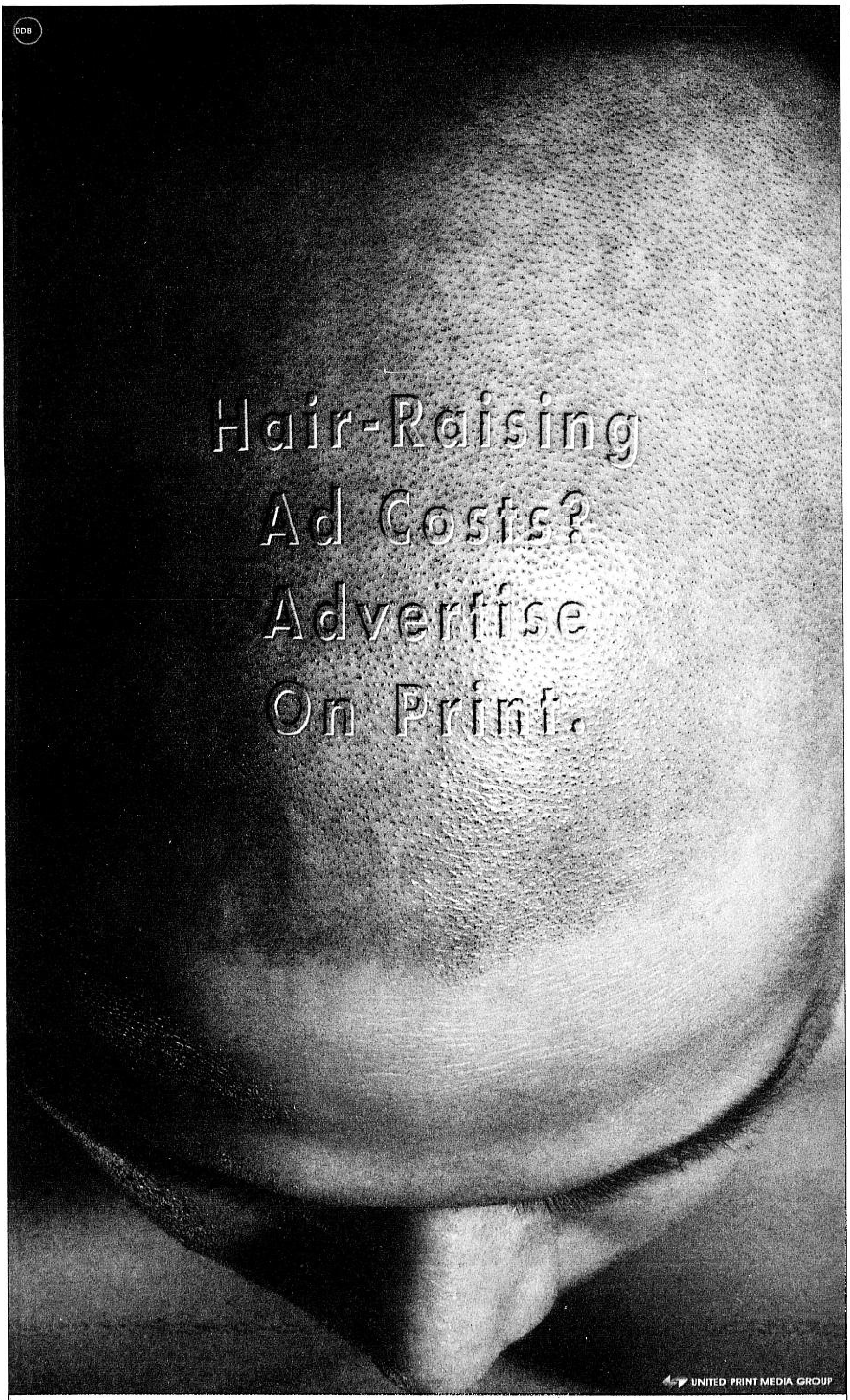
The DTI imposed starting June this year a safeguard duty of P20.60 per 40-kilogram bag of imported cement in response to the appeal from various cement manufacturing firms that claimed to have been severely affected by the entry of cheaper imported cement.

According to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, the DTI has embarked on a nationwide review of cement prices and found that the selling prices in some areas have increased from a low of P3 per bag to a high of P12 per bag from August to October.

According to data from the DTI's price monitoring team, the average price of cement nationwide increased from P114 in August to P110 in October. In the National Capital Region, meanwhile, the price of cement went up by P3 from P107 to P110.

He said, however, that the DTI would still study other factors that could have possibly affected the prices of cement—such as current costs of fuel and electricity—before it decides to withdraw the safeguard measure.

Roxas said the DTI has been holding consultations with various sectors to come up with a fair judgment on the recorded increases in cement prices were justified.



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Local banks still dominant, says Moody's

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE DOMINANCE of the country's large universal banks remains unchallenged despite the entry of foreign competition and the growth of smaller domestic banks, a banking analyst of international ratings firm Moody's said.

Analyst John Tham noted that while foreign competition was strong, it remains limited because foreign players often switch resources to other markets that better suit their risk-reward preferences.

The few aggressive local banks that have posted a "clean" growth, on the other hand, were not expected to pose a significant threat to the bigger banks since they have smaller assets and networks.

"This strong network of branches (of the big banks) is a big advantage in a market where physical reach is likely to remain very important, at least for the next five years," Tham said.

The country's largest banks include the Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., Bank of the Philippine Islands and Equitable PCI Bank.

Investor interest, however, has been growing in Union Bank of the Philippines, China Banking Corp. and Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

The first two have posted over P2 billion in net income in the first nine months of this year to register some of the highest return on equity ratios in the industry.

Meanwhile, Tham said that the asset quality picture of the Philippine banking industry has not significantly improved.

Corn Q4 output to soar by 30%

THE COUNTRY'S corn production is expected to soar 30.2 percent in the fourth quarter, pushing overall output to 4.61 million metric tons for the entire year, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said.

While production between July and September this year plunged 4.9 percent to 1.44 million MT largely due to Typhoon Harurot which pummeled key corn areas in Luzon, off-season plantings in Cagayan Valley and early cropping in Mindanao yielded good harvests to compensate for the third quarter loss, he said.

As a result, the country's corn output is expected to increase by almost 290,000 MT to 4.61 million MT this year, or 6.76 percent more than the 4.32 million MT registered in 2003.

"Corn farmers managed to recover because of timely government intervention, including the release of calamity funds for seed procurement and loan restructuring by Quedancor for Cagayan Valley farmers who had previous production loan borrowings," Lorenzo said.

The DA chief said that despite mid-year typhoons which wiped out potential harvest of up to 300,000 MT in the corn growing areas of Cagayan Valley and the Cordillera, farmers' ability to immediately rise above the disaster brought positive results toward yearend.

Lorenzo said good corn prices and favorable weather conditions in the second semester also encouraged farmers to plant in more areas, allowing corn output to improve significantly.

He noted that early croppings in South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City (Soccsksargen) also compensated for the crop losses caused by typhoons.

This year's higher output was also attributed to the intensified seed dispersal program of the government since early 2003, which allowed corn yield, notably the white variety, to improve to 1.91 metric tons per hectare this year from 2002 levels.

"We are gaining headway in promoting hybrid and certified corn seed varieties," Lorenzo said.

Meralco customers get ₱39.96M in discounts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE INDUSTRIAL customers of Manila Electric Co. have enjoyed discounts on their electricity bills worth P39.96 million last August and September under a program aimed at boosting electricity consumption, a company official said.

Ivanna dela Peña, head of Meralco's utility economics unit, said in an interview that 100 companies availed themselves of the discounts in August while 96 firms benefited from the program in September.

Under the Special Program to Enhance Electricity Demand, Meralco's industrial customers could get a discount of as much as 72 centavos per kilowatt-hour for electricity consumed beyond their average monthly demand.

Of the total discount, 50 centavos was from the National Power Corp., 10 centavos from the National Transmission Corp. and 12 centavos from Meralco.

Discounts given out in August accounted for 28.6 million kilowatt-hours at P19.84 million while those in September covered 27.9 million kWh at P20.12 million.

Dela Peña said August discounts were The discount applies only to the part of supply that is bought from Napocor, she explained.

Companies that started benefiting from Speed are eligible under Phase 1 of the program, which covers customers with a minimum demand of 1,000 kilowatts.

"We expect to implement Phase 2 for customers with minimum demand of 500 kW in December," Dela Peña said.

There are 226 Meralco customers eligible under Phase 1 and about 1,100 firms qualified under Phase 2, the official added.

LRTA seeks charter change

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LIGHT Rail Transit Authority has sought an amendment to its charter to allow it to increase its capitalization and cut down on interest expenses.

LRTA Administrator Teodoro Cruz Jr. said in an interview that the LRTA's original charter, Executive Order 603, had been amended twice, yet capitalization remained at a low P3 billion.

"Our recommendation is to have a charter change as we are undercapitalized at only P3 billion. Our earlier proposition was for our capitalization to be raised to P100 billion, but this was turned down by Congress," he told the INQUIRER.

Cruz said the LRTA could opt for a debt-to-equity conversion that could also jack up the company's capitalization to as high as P100 billion, while bringing down its financial charges.

The LRTA courses its borrowings through the national government. Instead of the government infusing additional cash into the railway authority to increase its capitalization, its debts could just be converted into equity.

"A debt-to-equity conversion can turn the LRTA into a P100-billion company. This will then encourage private sector participation in our projects," Cruz said.

While the LRTA's debt-to-equity conversion proposal had yet to get approval, he said the Department of Budget and Management had already provided an initial P7-billion subsidy for the LRTA.

He said the DBM had approved the conversion of P7 billion worth of interest charges into government subsidy for the LRTA.

Since the creation of the LRTA in 1981, it had been posting revenues that were more than enough to cover its operational expenses, but hefty financial charges have kept LRTA in the red.

Last year, the LRTA generated more than P1.2 billion in net revenues. Its opex stood at P998 million while its financial charges were placed at P659 million.

As of the first half of this year, the LRTA's net revenue stood at P580 million, while opex was pegged at P510 million. Financial charges stood at P334 million.

Cruz said the LRTA would be more viable and more attractive to private sector investors if the government would approve the proposed debt-to-equity swap.

LRTA projects lined up for implementation include the $841-million LRT Line 1 South Extension and the P11.7-billion LRT Line 2 East Extension projects.

SEC approves Philtrust's capital hike

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the increase in the authorized capital of Philippine Trust Co. from P5 billion to P17 billion.

Philtrust Bank, largely owned by newspaper publisher Emilio Yap, also increased its subscribed capital to P4.5 billion and paid-up capital to P3.683 billion.

In a recent disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the bank said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had also approved the capital increase.

The bank said that in line with the increase in authorized capital, a 145.53 percent stock dividend of 218.3 million shares based on the company's subscribed and outstanding shares as of Sept. 13 this year, was declared.

Out of the additional P12 billion increase, 25 percent or P3 billion have been subscribed, P2.183 billion of which was fully paid by way of stock dividends.

As of the third quarter of this year, Philtrust reported total assets of P37 billion and a capital base of P4.19 billion. Its deposits amounted to P31.6 billion and net loans reached P13.8 billion.

GOINGS-ON

Security Bank's new branch

SECURITY Bank's Ayala Alabang branch will open its doors for business starting today.

Located on Madrigal Avenue, the 114th branch of Security Bank is a full-service unit meant to serve its surrounding businesses and residential villages.

The Monday opening will be a soft launch but full service will already be in full swing, said Joven Hernandez, senior vice president for consumer banking.

The inaugural will be preceded by a convoy of BMW cars driving round the community it will serve. Security Bank has a financing tie-up with BMW.

SMC units bag awards

SAN Miguel Corp.'s packaging subsidiaries gained distinction for excellence from two reputable award-giving bodies recently.

San Miguel Rengo Packaging Corp. won the Philstar Award for Packaging Excellence of the Packaging Institute of the Philippines, while Rightpak International Corp. also bagged the Print Excellence 2003 Awards of the Printing Industries Association of the Philippines.

For the fourth consecutive year, San Miguel Rengo took home the Philstar Award, considered the Oscars of the Philippine packaging industry, with its export case entry for client Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc.

Philstar winners qualify to the Worldstar Packaging Competition, which will be held next year.

Rightpak also won in the Flexibles Printing category for the pouch it printed for Mc Cormick Fajitas Seasoning Mix.

DTI's livelihood program

AFTER five successful launches, the Department of Trade and Industry brings the Marangal na Kabuhayan Program to the communities of Barangay San Agustin, Capri, Sta. Monica, Nagkaisang Nayon and Novaliches Proper in Quezon City.

Some 250 initial participants will join the livelihood program where they will be taught how to make soaps and candles. The SM Foundation, chaired by Teresita Sy Coson, has agreed to provide non-traditional marketing avenues and assistance in packaging the products.

The Marangal na Kabuhayan is a market-linked DTI program that aims to open entrepreneurial opportunities to the urban poor and at the same time provide avenues to be able to sustain these micro enterprises. Detergents and wax-based products were chosen because these products do not require complex design, technology or sophisticated machines and the like as primary conditions for competitiveness, thereby giving the livelihood endeavors of these communities a fighting chance for market acceptance.

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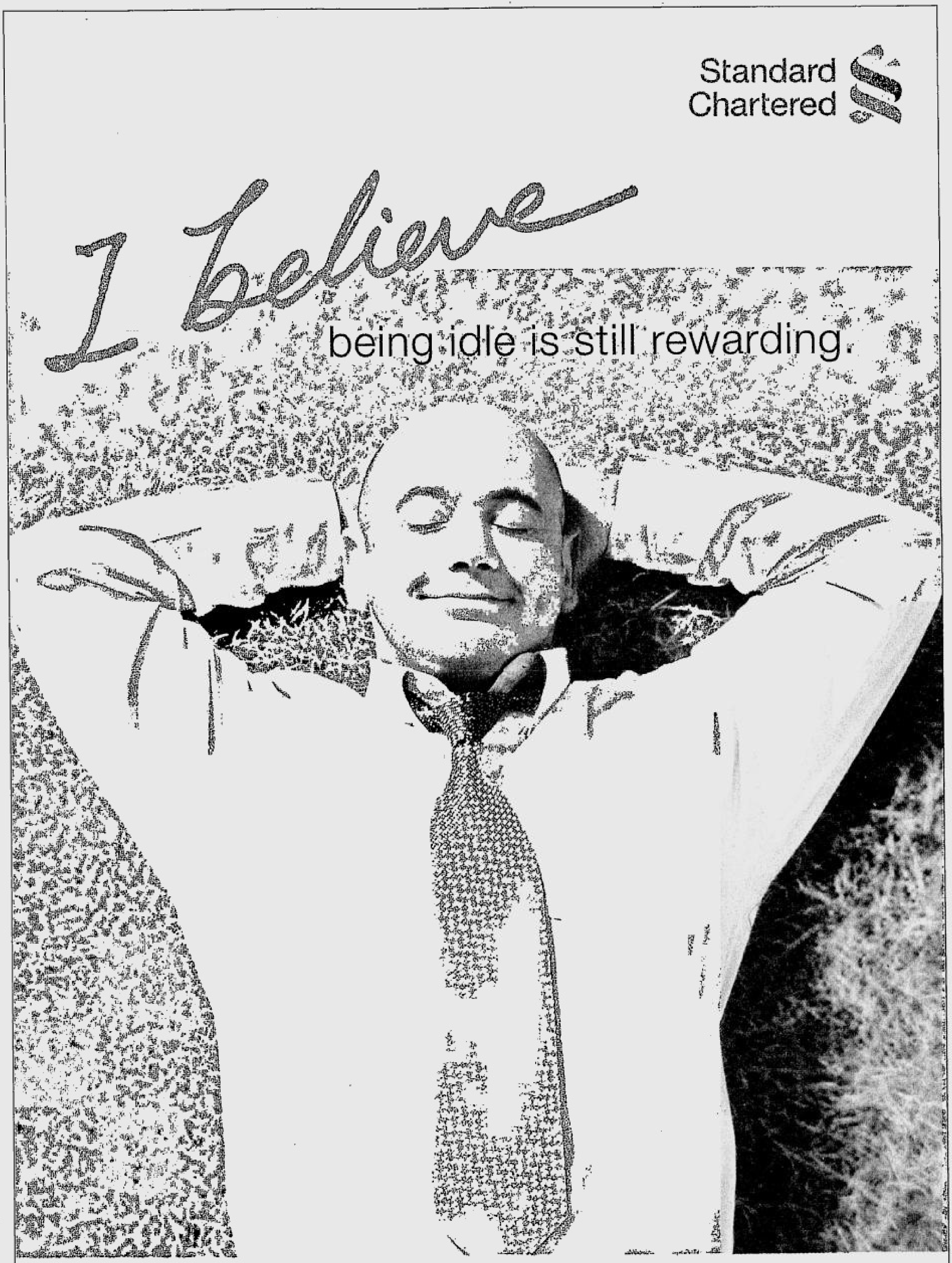
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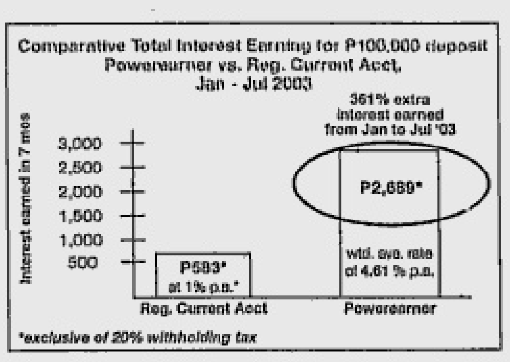

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TRADERS talk on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Oct. 30 in New York City. US stocks were higher in the wake of an eye-popping government report that showed economic growth accelerated to a near 20-year record of 7.2 percent in the third quarter. AFP

Slow Third World growth worries United Nations

UNITED NATIONS—Eighteen months after an international summit on financing Third World development and slashing world poverty, the United Nations Thursday deplored the stagnating pace of progress.

"In 2002, for the sixth consecutive year, developing countries made a net transfer of financial resources to other countries," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said at the opening of a special two-day General Assembly session.

Funds "should be moving from developed countries to developing countries, but these numbers tell us the opposite is happening," he added.

An international summit in New York in 2000 established goals—known as the Millennium Development Goals—aimed at eliminating extreme poverty and famine, promoting sexual equality and the enfranchisement of women, and fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria by 2015.

A high-profile follow-up meeting of leaders of some 60 nations in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, fleshed out the means of implementing those goals.

In Monterrey, the United States and the European Union announced increased aid to Third World development, and an ongoing dialogue began between rich and poor nations.

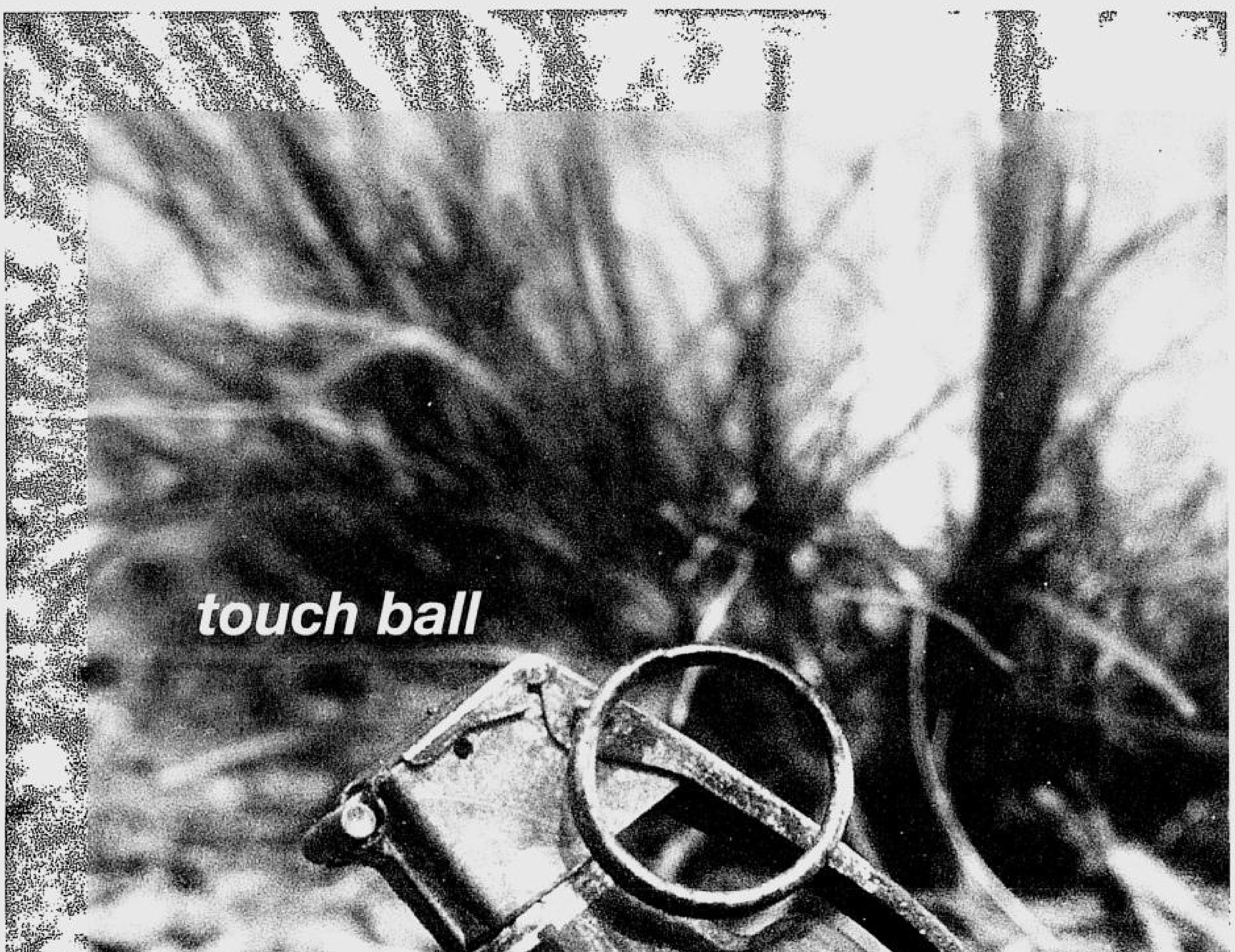
However, said Annan, "while overseas development aid has increased, it is still far short of what is required to meet the Millennium Development Goals."

"Despite promising investment opportunities in the developing world and improved economic policies, fear and uncertainty are keeping resources from being deployed where they are needed most.

"If financing for development means anything, we must reverse this negative balance sheet and fix the system so that all countries and all people, especially the poorest, can benefit," said Annan.

But since the Monterrey event, mounting international tensions, lagging industrialized nation economies and the failure of World Trade Organization talks in Cancun, Mexico, in September have painted a gloomier picture for Third World development.

AFP



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Inflation rises in S. Korea

SEOUL—Fanned by higher food prices in the wake of a powerful storm, South Korea's consumer price index rose slightly in October, defying expectations of a drop and pushing annual inflation to a six-month high of 3.7 percent.

The consumer price index rose 0.1 percent in October from September, the National Statistical Office said, slowing from a 0.9-percent rise in September but topping forecasts of a drop of 0.2 percent in a Reuters poll of 10 economists.

The data comes a week ahead of the central bank's monthly rate-setting meeting, but analysts said they doubted consumer prices would sway policy makers.

"The index rise almost wholly came from higher food prices and excluding that, we can say inflation in October was stable and there's nothing to worry about," said Oh Suk-tae, an economist at Citibank in Seoul.

The consumer price index had risen 3.7 percent from October last year, up from 3.3 percent in the year to September, the statistics agency said.

But core inflation, stripping out volatile food and fuel prices, was 2.8 percent in the year to October, down from 3.1 percent in the year to September.

The Bank of Korea, whose prime goal is keeping inflation stable, aims for core inflation of 2.0 to 4.0 percent this year.

Tame price data between April and July helped tip the central bank into cutting its overnight call rate target to a record low of 3.75 percent in July.

Economists had expected inflationary pressures in October to ease significantly after Typhoon Maemi, the strongest to hit the country in about a century, sent prices surging in September.

Reuters

Temasek eyes acquisitions

SINGAPORE—Singapore's powerful state investment agency Temasek Holdings Ltd. said on Friday it is looking to buy more Asian financial institutions after successful forays into the Indonesian banking sector.

Temasek, with Deutsche Bank AG, bought a 51-percent stake in Indonesia's PT Bank Danamon TBK in June, and plans to buy PT Bank Internasional Indonesia TBK as part of a consortium led by South Korea's Kookmin Bank.

"We will continue to seek interesting opportunities in the Asian financial sector, as they arise," Temasek said in a statement.

Temasek, an investment holding company, issued the statement in response to growing speculation over its decision to invest directly in the Indonesian banks instead of going through DBS Group Holdings Ltd., in which it has a 27-percent stake.

The Financial Times on Wednesday, quoting a person close to Temasek, said Temasek Executive Director Ho Ching had been "frustrated by the slow pace of overseas expansion" by DBS, Southeast Asia's largest bank.

The article quoted the source saying Ho had therefore decided Temasek "must play a more direct role by setting up its own banking network."

Ho, who moved into the top job at Temasek last year, is the wife of Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and daughter-in-law of Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Temasek said the Financial Times report was incorrect and represented "mischievous speculation" by an external party.

"Nor is there any pressure from Temasek at any time for DBS to expand willy-nilly overseas," the agency said.

DBS, the largest lender in Southeast Asia by assets, has stakes in several regional banks, including DBS Thai Danu Bank and the Bank of the Philippine Islands. It is also a major player in Hong Kong after it bought fourth-ranked Dao Heng Bank in 2001.

Temasek controls most of Singapore's largest listed and unlisted businesses including Singapore Telecommunications Ltd., Singapore Airlines Ltd. and the city state's port operator, PSA Corp.

Reuters

DECLINING SPENDING, PRICES

Latest Japan data point to fragile recovery

TOKYO—Japan's unemployment rate in September was unchanged from August at 5.1 percent, while household spending and consumer prices continued to fall and housing construction remained wobbly, evidence that the country's economic recovery is still fragile.

Overall, data released on Friday did little to bolster the case for an economic upturn, sparking a fall on Tokyo stock market of more than one percent even as the yen eased against the dollar following record-breaking third-quarter US growth of 7.2 percent on an annualized basis.

The number of people out of work totaled 3.46 million, down 190,000 from a year earlier, but the number of employed also declined for the second consecutive month to 63.46 million, down 70,000.

At the same time, the number of employers fell for a second month in a row to 53.28 million, down 140,000 from a year earlier, the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications said.

"Since the number of both workers and employers declined, we do not believe the job situation is improving," said a ministry official.

Employment data are considered lagging indicators, which means they tend to show improvements only about six months after the economy actually recovers.

"The jobless rate for men rose again as companies in the construction and manufacturing sectors continued to trim their workforces through restructuring and encouraging early retirement," the official noted.

The jobless rate for men rose to 5.5 percent in September from 5.3 percent in August while that for women fell to 4.7 percent from 4.8 percent.

The number of employees in the construction business dropped 290,000 from a year earlier to 5.92 million in September, with the manufacturing sector down 70,000 to 11.76 million.

"The construction sector has long been saddled with excess workers and many companies continued to shed them," said Shunichi Maruyama, senior economist at UFJ Institute Ltd.

"For the manufacturing sector, jobs are being eliminated as more Japanese companies are moving their production bases to China" to take advantage of cheaper labor costs, Maruyama said.

"Overall, the economy is not yet strong enough for corporate managers to boost hiring," the economist said.

For his part, Tatsuya Torikoshi, senior economist at Daiwa Institute of Research, said the employment situation should gradually improve, thanks to rising job offers in the service and healthcare sectors.

"The number of new job openings is actually rising but we are seeing employment mismatches, in which employers are having a hard time finding the right employees," Torikoshi said.

AFP

The lively world of Mahathir's economics

MAHATHIR Mohamad

KUALA LUMPUR—Outgoing Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad can claim many feathers for his economic cap, but one that must give him great pleasure comes from his humbling of critics in the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

At the time of the Asian financial crisis in 1997-98 Mahathir refused to buckle to the IMF's demands and did the opposite of what they recommended by imposing capital controls and pegging the local currency to the US dollar.

Last month, IMF chief Horst Koehler conceded during a visit to Kuala Lumpur that Mahathir had been right.

"With hindsight, we have to recognize the good performance of the economy. Mahathir was right," he said.

The July 1997 devaluation of the Thai baht sparked the crisis as other currencies also came under speculative attack, and Mahathir's actions were seen as so dangerous that billionaire financier and currency trader George Soros described him as "a menace to his own country".

In turn, Mahathir famously called Soros a "moron," accusing him of igniting the crisis by taking up massive positions against regional currencies in the foreign exchange market—a charge Soros denied.

Mahathir also derided his Western critics as "cockerels crowing arrogantly but with the tail-feathers mired in feces."

The savage verbal exchanges were classic Mahathir, but he can point to his success in hoisting this small country of 23 million people from being an exporter of rubber and tin into 17th position among the world's trading nations.

Unemployment is negligible and the country is on track for 4.5 percent GDP growth this year.

But Mahathir's critics say he has allowed political cronies to become rich and stifled some development through an affirmative action programme giving the Malay majority privileges over the economically-dominant Chinese.

Government policies, they say, are too accommodating, resulting in a lack of healthy competition to spur productivity growth which had averaged below one percent in the last decade.

A government tendency to step in and rescue troubled firms also clouded his rule.

His pump-priming policy to lift the economy out of the doldrums has led to seven straight years of budget deficits.

Malaysia is also struggling to lure foreign funds with investors wary of putting their money into a country where they could again have problems getting it out.

Moody's Investors Service in April said Malaysia must strive to make its corporate sector more competitive and draw in more foreign investment to sustain long-term growth.

AFP

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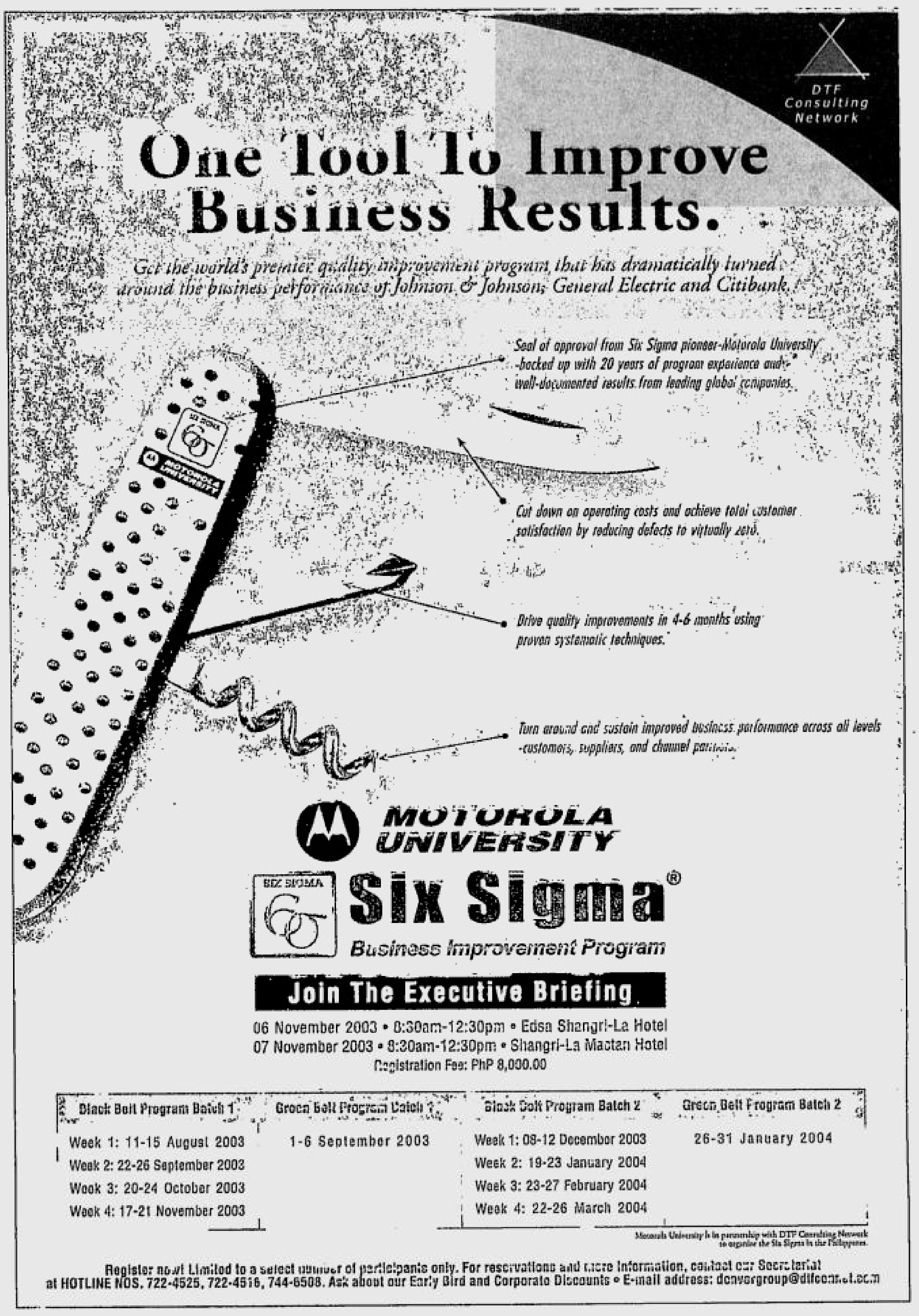

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late TIRSO C. LLAMAS, consisting of conjugal share over Manila Memorial Park Cemetery Lots, Paranaque City referred as Lots ABCD Block 133, V-Garden of Angels, was adjudicated to his sole and only heir and surviving spouse, Amparo San Luis Llamas by means of a public document executed on Aug. 24, 2003 and ratified before Atty. Federico Florendo, Jr., Notary Public for and in Las Pinas City, Metro Manila, and entered into his Notarial Registry as Doc. No. 179; Page No. 37; Book No. 2; Series of 2003 (PDI-Oct. 27, Nov. 3 & 10, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ARSENIO G. MACATANGAY and Late MAXIMA DAYANG-HIRANG was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as of Oct. 16, 2003 under Doc. No. 370; Page No. 75; Book No. 4; Series of 2003 before notary public Dolorsindo I. Paner (PDI-Oct. 20, 27 & Nov. 3, 2003)

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DONA CORAZON OBOZA ORLINO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 2, 2003 at the age of 85.

Her bereaved son and family, **Freddie, Marlies and Mark**; step sons, daughters and in-laws, **Felix Jr. & Dolores; Teresing & Oscar; Marcos (†) & Anita; Romy & Nene, Baby & Rene**; and **Boy**, nephews and nieces, grandchildren and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state in Bani, Pangasinan. Interment will be on November 8, 2003 at 9:00 am at the cemetery of Bani, Pangasinan.

CLASSIFIEDS

Canadian Embassy
Manila

Ambassade du Canada
Manille

L'Ambassade du Canada à Manille,
suite à son déménagement à une nouvelle chancellerie,
annonce son changement d'adresse et de numéro de téléphone.
Ceux-ci seront en vigueur dès le 4 novembre.
L'Ambassade ne sera fermée que le vendredi 31 octobre et le lundi 3 novembre.

L'AMBASSADE DU CANADA À MANILLE EST SITUÉE AU:

Niveau 6, 7, et 8, Tour 2
RCBC Plaza
6819 Avenue Ayala
Makati City 1200
P.O. Box 2168

Le public peut maintenant rejoindre l'ambassade en utilisant ces nouveaux numéros:
Tél: 857-90-01
Fax: 843-10-82

Pour les demandes de visa et les affaires concernant l'immigration
S.V.P. contactez le centre d'appel:
1-909-1018888 (PLDT)
1-903-1018888 (BAYANTEL)
1-900-1018888 (GLOBE)
(Les frais d'appel sont de Php18.00 par minute.)

Pour de plus amples informations, consultez notre site web:
www.manila.gc.ca

Pour des questions spécifiques, vous pouvez rejoindre:

Section	Telephone	Fax
Immigration et Visa	857-90-02	843-10-94/96
Gestion/Consulaire	857-90-01	843-10-82
le Service des Délégués Commerciaux du Canada	857-90-95/857-91-31	843-10-80
agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI)	857-91-33/857-91-20/857-91-21	843-10-83
Relations Politiques et Economiques/Affaires Publiques	857-90-13	843-10-78

Canadian Embassy
Manila

Ambassade du Canada
Manille

The Canadian Embassy, Manila
announces its change of address and contact numbers
due to its move to its new chancery effective
04 November 2003.
The Embassy will *only* be closed on
Friday, October 31 and Monday, November 3.

THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, MANILA IS LOCATED AT

Level 6, 7, and 8, Tower 2
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P.O. Box 2168

The public may contact the Embassy through the new trunklines:
Tel: 857-90-01
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For visa application and immigration matters, please contact the Call Centre:
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1-903-1018888 (BAYANTEL)
1-900-1018888 (GLOBE)
(Call charges at Php18.00 per minute)

Comprehensive information on visa applications may be obtained from our website: www.manila.gc.ca

For specific concerns, you may reach the following sections:

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Immigration and Visa	857-90-02	843-10-94/96
Management and Consular	857-90-01	843-10-82
Trade Commissioner Service	857-90-95/857-91-31	843-10-80
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	857-91-33/857-91-20/857-91-21	843-10-83
Political, Economic Relations, and Public Affairs	857-90-13	843-10-78

Canadian Embassy
Manila

Ambassade du Canada
Manille

Ang Pasuguan ng Canada sa Maynila
ay ibinabalita ang pagpapalit ng tanggapan at telepono
simula ika-apat ng Nobyembre 2003.
Ang Pasuguan ay sarado lamang sa Biyernes, ika-31 ng
Oktubre at Lunes, ika 3 ng Nobyembre.

Ang Pasuguan ng Canada sa MAYNILA ay nasa

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Makati City 1200
P.O. Box 2168

Maaaring tumawag o magpadala ng liham ang publiko sa mga sumusunod:
Tel: 857-90-01
Fax: 843-10-82

Para sa aplikasyon sa bisa at mga bagay tungkol sa imigrasyon, mangyaring tumawag sa Call Centre:
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1-903-1018888 (BAYANTEL)
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(Php18.00 ang halaga ng tawag kada minuto)

Ang pangkalahatang kaalaman ukol sa aplikasyon sa bisa ay maaaring makuha mula sa aming website:
www.manila.gc.ca

Para sa partikular na serbisyo, maaring tawagan ang mga sumununod na tanggapan:

Seksyon	Telepono	Fax
Immigration and Visa	857-90-02	843-10-94/96
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Trade Commissioner Service	857-90-95/857-91-31	843-10-80
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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Notice is hereby given to all interested contractors under PCAB Category Medium A for the proposed construction of 680 cu.m. R.C. Ground Reservoir and Fence/Site Grading Development at Brgy. Panacan, Davao City.

The APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT is Php2,208,018.13

Pre-C/Eligibility requirements are available at the DCWD BAC-B c/o Office of the General Manager starting October 27, 2003, during its business hours. Deadline fo[illegible] submission of Pre-C/eligibility documents will be on November 17, 2003. Schedule of the Pre-bid Conference shall be on December 18, 2003, and the Opening of Bids shall be on December 29, 2003.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids received and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee-B

(PDI–Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2003)

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NOTICE OF SALE BY PUBLIC BIDDING

The PAF Disposal Committee will receive sealed bids until 25 November 2003, 10:00 AM at Conference Room, 420th Supply Wing, PAF Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga for the sale of the following unserviceable properties on "As Is Where Is" basis.

Lot Number/Description	Location	Min. Bid Price
3-283-022 Ten (10) T-28 Engines with Canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P450,000.00
5-283-023 (8) T-28 Engines w/o Canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	320,000.00
Lot II-D Assorted Aircraft Parts	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	12,000.00
Lot III-D Assorted Aircraft Parts	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	16,000.00
02-190-07 One (1) Airplane Utility N22B with Tail Nr B-20	220th Airlift Wing, Benito Ebuen Air Base, Mactan	12,000.00

REMINDERS TO BIDDERS:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in PAF official bid form.
3. Earnest money is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to (10%) of the bid price.
4. To be on time. No bid will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commence.
5. Pre-bid conference and issuance of Bid Forms (P200.00 per set) will be on 18 November 2003, 2:00 PM at 420th SW Conference Room, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga.
6. Inspection schedule will be from 03-14 November 2003, from 0800H to 1600H, Monday to Friday.

PAF DISPOSAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE PAF.

For details and schedule of inspection call Cpl Roberto M. Pascua PAF at (045) 599-2015 loc 6524 or mobile 09197774040.

(Sgd.) RUBEN C ESTEPA
Colonel, PAF (JSC)
Chairman PAF Disposal Committee

(PDI–Nov. 1, 2 & 3, 2003)

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AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS - **LIEBERT** Intelecool 2 5-Tonner Cap. Air-conditioning Units (UNUSED); **MARVAIR** Compac 3 5-Tonner Cap. Air-conditioning Units (UNUSED0; **ALENAIRE** 5-Tonner Cap. Split Type Air-conditioning Units; **KOPPEL** Split Airconditioners, etc.
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FOOD PREPARATION EQUIPMENT - Stainless Grill Stations; Stainless Drink Cabinets; Stainless Fillet Tables; Stainless Hotcake Plate Stands; Stainless Spaghetti Preparation Tables; Stainless Meat Freezers; Stainless Salad Preparation Tables; Stainless Chicken Unloading Station, etc.
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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Avoid being fooled by illegal recruiters

WITH the current economic crisis and low career opportunities in the country, many nurses are looking for greener pastures in other countries, particularly in the United States. With the high demand for experienced healthcare professionals abroad, there are great opportunities for Filipino nurses to build their career and earn precious dollars that help not only the nurses and their families but also provide a boost to the economy in general.

But with opportunity comes great danger as many fly-by-night "recruitment agencies" have cropped up, whose only purpose is to fool people out of their hard-earned money with no real service being given.

If you are looking to begin a career in nursing and healthcare abroad, you must be wary of these unscrupulous agencies that will do nothing but take your money. To avoid becoming a victim of these illegal recruiters, follow this simple guide on how to choose your recruitment agency.

Know the law. The Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) has very strict rules on the recruitment business. Get a copy of their rules and regulations and read them carefully. These documents are public domain and are readily available from the POEA offices and its website www.poea.gov.ph.

Choose a POEA-registered agency. When choosing your recruitment agency, make sure it is duly registered with the POEA. The easiest way to know this is by its POEA License Number. Companies such as Horizon Recruitment Pacific Corp (HRPC) are assigned POEA License Numbers, which are proof that they have passed the rigorous screening and have met the requirements set by the POEA.

Check if the agency has a strong partner/counterpart abroad. An agency with a strong foreign partner will have more opportunities available for jobseekers. Associations and agency partners abroad like Worldwide Healtstaff Associates Ltd (WWHSA) give agencies like HRPA a wealth of employer sources for their applicants.

The stronger the partner, the better. Check the reach of the agency and its partners. Multi-country and multiregion reach mean more opportunities.

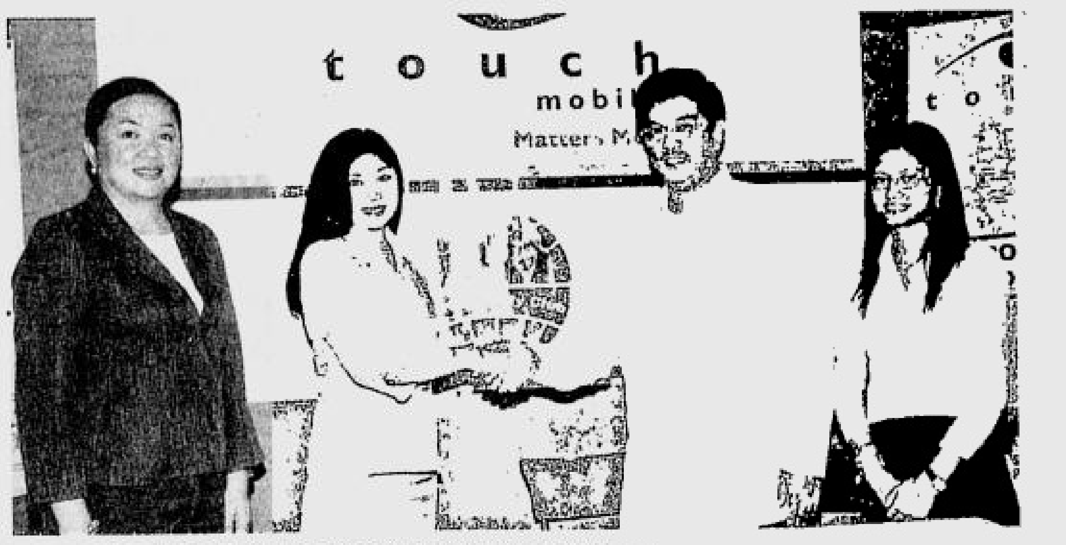
Look for extra benefits. It is also important to look for extra benefits that the agency gives its successful applicants. A strong agency will even pay for much of your expenses even after you get hired. HRPC provides its successful nurse applicants with free airfare, board and lodging on the initial leg of their career.

Are you looking to migrate? Agencies like HRPC offer EB-3 Visa processing for nurses. This means that you, your spouse and children will get a "green card" upon your arrival in the United States.

These are just some of the things you should consider when you're applying for a nursing job abroad. If you would like to learn more about working abroad, go to a legitimate recruiting agency who will gladly help you get your career started.

HRPC is a duly licensed recruitment agency with POEA License Number POEA-050-LB-090303-PL. HRPA has been chosen by Worldwide Healthstaff. Associates Ltd as its agency partner for recruiting healthcare professionals in the Philippines for work opportunities in the United States and Canada.

HRPC is located at the third floor of Reliance House, 205 Edsa corner Rochester Street, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, with telephone numbers 724-8601 to 06.

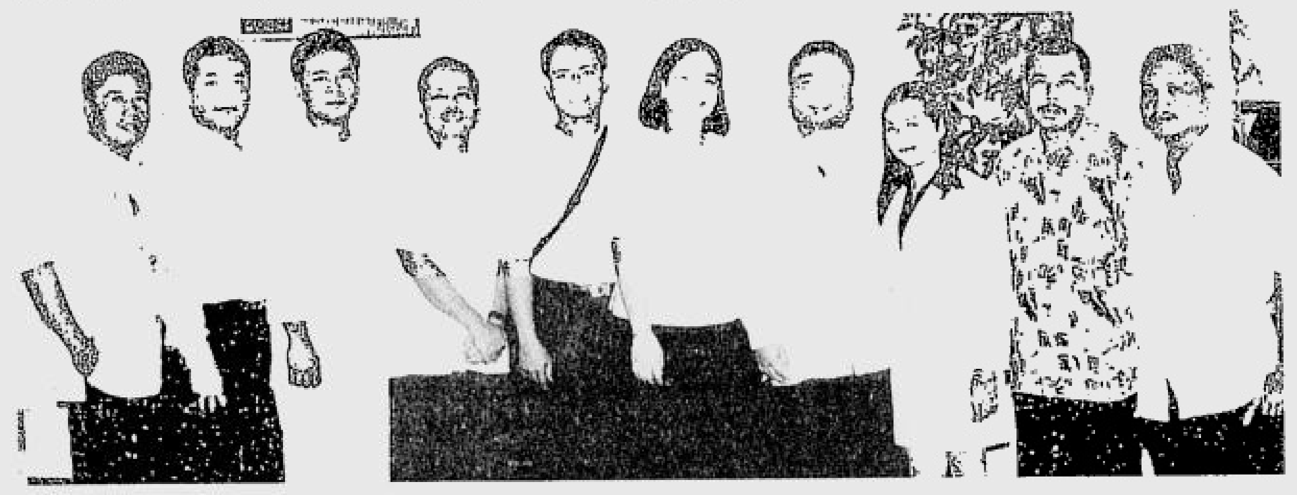


TOUCH MOBILE SPONSORS OFW FAMILY DAY

In line with its thrust of supporting the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) market and their families, Touch Mobile recently signed up as the major sponsor of the Grand Overseas Filipino Workers Family Day. The day-long affair, recently held at the Philippine Trade Training Center on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, is a project of the OFW Family Club founded by National Labor Relations Commission chair Roy Señeres, Present during the contract signing are, from left, Joyce Capacillo, Touch Mobile's head of acquisition, Ana de Villa-Singson, Globe Telecom vice president for Touch Mobile, Roy Señeres and Hannah Señeres, vice president of the OFW Family Club. Known for its family-centric brand character, Touch Mobile has lined up programs aimed at supporting the OFW market and their families.

EARTH+STYLE BUILDS NEW ACCESS ROAD TO NEW BIÑAN

Construction manager Honesto Medina (2nd from right) briefs top executives of Earth+Style Corp, the lifestyle property developer, on the status of the project involving the company-sponsored access road connecting Mamplasan Exit to the town proper of Biñan, Laguna en route to Earth+Style's Jubilation New Biñan project, a new township being developed within a sprawling 155-hectares. Shown, from left, are Earth+Style president and CEO Victor H. Manarang, deputy chief operating officer Arnie F. Acero and chief operating officer Jacinto C. Ng Jr.



IPC'S ORIENTATION SEMINAR FOR PLDT

Isuzu Philippines Corp (IPC) recently conducted the nationwide orientation seminar to Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) as part of the after-sales service support to the purchase of 31 units of PLDT service utility vehicles. This nationwide seminar is aimed to provide the drivers and technicians with proper operation and minor maintenance of the vehicle. Present during the seminar were (from left) Reynaldo C. Mamorno, PLDT section head, Mario M. Ojales, IPC manager, corporate sales, engineer Ramil O. Mendoza, IPC technical trainer, Reynaldo R. Macalolot, PLDT south Luzon team leaser, Gerardo J. Soriano, PLDT division head, Dagupan exchange office, Patricia Buenaventura, ISZ Alabang sales supervisor, Ernanie Tumimbang, PLDT VP fleet group, Madz Espiritu, ISZ Alabang sales executive, Willie G. Hinanay, PLDT Visayas team leader, and Clemente B. Brecia Jr, PLDT north Luzon team leader.

NNHES MOA SIGNING, LAUNCHING

Primary stakeholders of the National Nutrition and Health Survey 2003 (NNHeS), the most comprehensive and first systematic attempt to determine the prevalence of various lifestyle and nutrition diseases, participated in by 14 medical specialty societies, sign the memorandum of agreement at the Philippine Heart Association (PHA) Heart House July 15. Signatories to the MOA were NNHeS Survey 2003 project coordinator and Lipid Society of the Philippines president Dr. Dante Morales (seated, 3rd from left) and FNRI-DOST Director Dr. Corazon VC Barba (seated, 3rd from right). Witnesses were, seated from left, Drs Charles Yu, Philippine College of Physicians, Health Assistant Secretary Rolando Domingo, Philippine Society of Hypertension president Esperanza Cabral and PHA president Romeo Santos. Standing, from left, are Drs Celeste Tanchoco, Philippine Study for the Study of Obesity and Overweight, Linda Varona of the Philippine Society of Asthma, Allergy, Immunology and Julie Li-Yu, Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation Inc. The collection of data of the nationwide prevalence survey lasts from July to December 2003, with the release of the results in July 2004.

Firm launches new Deloitte brand name

DELOITTE Touche Tohmatsu, the global professional services organization, announced recently its 10th consecutive year of annual growth, with combined worldwide revenues from its member firms totaling $15.1 billion, a 20.8-percent increase over 2002 revenues of $12.5 billion. Additionally, the organization announced the launch of the new brand name Deloitte to highlight the value of its multidisciplinary organization. The change means that the firms known in various national and global markets as Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Deloitte & Touche, and Deloitte Consulting, while retaining their local legal names, will now be known as the brand "Deloitte."

William G. Parrett, global chief executive officer, said, "The 2003 results are a testament to our people's dedication and commitment to serving our clients, their stakeholders, and the capital markets. We accomplished this growth in a year that witnessed sweeping regulatory changes around the world-changes that altered the way our member firms conduct our business."

Parrett added, "Our clients' business challenges in this new environment are more complex than ever before and demand a greater understanding of both the detailed and long-range needs of our clients. The new brand name is a reflection of the greater capability and array of services that we can offer to clients as a multidisciplinary firm. The breadth of our vision and our ability to respond globally more comprehensive than any other professional services firm."

Parrett noted that in 2003 revenue growth to $15.1 billion as well the increase of intellectual capital to some 120,000 people in nearly 150 countries reflect the execution of the firm's long-term strategy.

In addition to strong overall growth, Deloitte regional member firms expanded substantially. Europe, the Middle East, and Africa saw 44-percent growth, Asia Pacific grew by 12 percent, and in the Americas, the national practices grew by 9 percent.

Manuel O. Faustino, managing partner of Deloitte's member firm in the Philippines CL Manabat & Co, said, "Deloitte's global growth mirrors the growth of our local practice. In spite of the challenges in our market, we continue our commitment to serving our clients with excellence and integrity." Faustino adds, "We expect the new brand strategy of Deloitte to boost awareness and recall in the local market, where simplicity and uniqueness are very important. Deloitte represents an image of a strong, reliable and cohesive global organization. Our people are very proud to carry the Deloitte name in the Philippines."

"We are now taking on new challenges and new opportunities to further the success of our global organization and to restore the public trust in our professions and our capital markets," Parrett said. "Along with our multidisciplinary approach to client service, our position as a global employer of choice is one of our most important strategic advantages. I envision our member firms as taking the lead in setting a new standard of excellence, integrity and quality, emerging as the premier brand in the marketplace."

Product Files

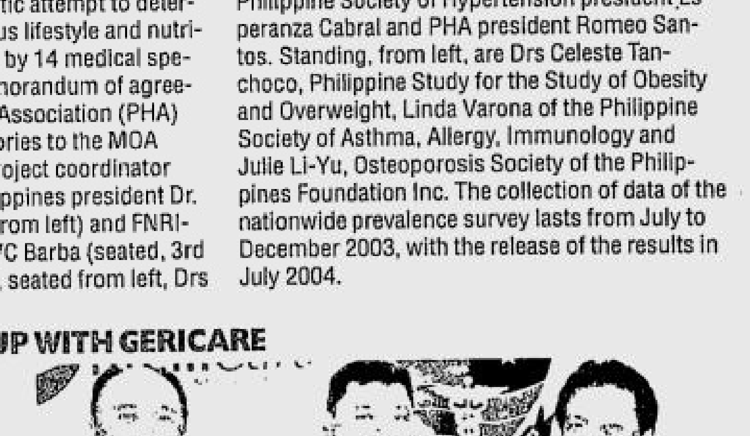
Ferry service for easy access to Macau

A NEW high-speed TurboJET Sea Express ferry service that conveniently links Macau with neighboring destinations-Hong Kong and Shenzhen-was launched recently, offering an efficient inter-modal connection between Hong Kong International Airport, SkyPier, Macau and Shenzhen Airport, and facilitating transit passengers from overseas countries.

With this pioneering service, passengers traveling to Macau will no longer be required to pass through the usual Customs and Immigrations formalities at the Hong Kong International Airport and will be allowed hassle-free baggage delivery from the airport to the ferry terminal.

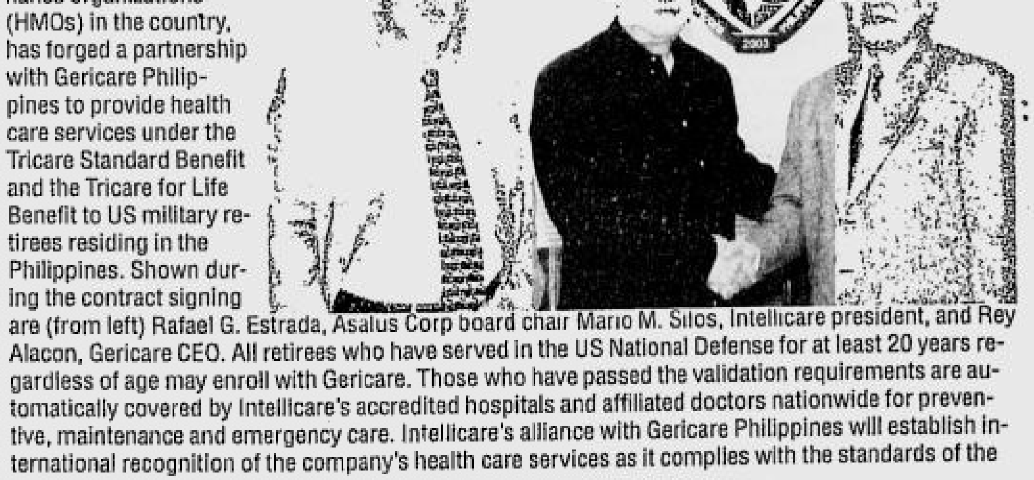
From the airport terminal in Hong Kong, bonded buses will transfer passengers to the SkyPier where the TurboJET is docked. The ferry ride to Macau takes only 40 minutes.

A tiny outpost sandwiched between Hong Kong and China, Macau is fast becoming a favorite destination among Asians, posting increasing tourist arrivals from its major source markets. With the TurboJET ferry now in place, the Macau Government Tourist Office is expecting its shores to usher in more visitors daring to discover what the unique destination has to offer. More information on this new ferry service may be obtained from the Macau Government Tourist Office at 830-2005, or log on to www.turbojetseaexpress.com.hk.



INTELLICARE TIES UP WITH GERICARE

Intellicare, one of the leading health maintenance organizations (HMOs) in the country, has forged a partnership with Gericare Philippines to provide health care services under the Tricare Standard Benefit and the Tricare for Life Benefit to US military retirees residing in the Philippines. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Rafael G. Estrada, Asalus Corp board chair Mario M. Silos, Intellicare president, and Rey Alacon, Gericare CEO. All retirees who have served in the US National Defense for at least 20 years regardless of age may enroll with Gericare. Those who have passed the validation requirements are automatically covered by Intellicare's accredited hospitals and affiliated doctors nationwide for preventive, maintenance and emergency care. Intellicare's alliance with Gericare Philippines will establish international recognition of the company's health care services as it complies with the standards of the US National Defense.



RCML INDUCTS HONORARY MEMBER

The Rotary Club of Makati-Legazpi (RCML), one of the strongest and most active Rotary clubs in Makati, inducted recently its newest honorary member past Rotary International District 3830 governor (PDG) Hugo 'Jun' Perez. Shown are (from left) RC Makati-Legazpi past president and district 3830 special representative Patria 'Patty' Chiong, RI District 3830 governor Jose L. Cortes Jr and RCML past president Ermil Napa. Chiong was president of RC Makati-Legazpi when Perez was district governor of RI District 3830. RCML was chartered as the 11th Rotary club in Makati in June 1989.

INFOTECH

E-mail: pr_info_tech@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Leo Magno

Samsung turning serious tech player

By Leo Magno

FREEZING rain and wind in Istanbul, Turkey served as a contrasting backdrop as South Korea's Samsung Electronics laid out plans to heat up competition not just against arch-rival Sony Corp. of Japan but also against information technology giants such as Microsoft, Nokia, Intel, Dell, Apple and HP.

At a global presentation held in the Turkish capital, Samsung vice chair and CEO Jong-Yong Yun said the company is restructuring its business portfolio into four strategic areas: the home market, the office market, the mobile sector and the technology component sector. The company is also targeting strategic business areas in home networking, wireless communications and mobile solutions with new products under these sectors.

Yun's announcement came a day before Sony announced that it would be cutting 20,000 jobs, or 13 percent of its workforce, in the next three years. Sony had been reeling from losses in its television, gaming and movie businesses.

Pocket PC
SAMSUNG

However, the announcement of Samsung's restructured business portfolio gained greater significance as the company is slowly challenging other giants outside of the traditional consumer electronics arena. Although Yun did not mention any competitor in particular, Samsung is entering the same playground which other new players like Microsoft, Nokia, Intel, Dell, Apple and HP are trying to conquer.

As convergence and business consolidation continue to sweep across the technology industry, non-traditional players are starting to meet each other reluctantly in a new market driven by the digital lifestyle. These include Microsoft with its Xbox entertainment center and Smartphones, Nokia with its N-Gage and set-top boxes, Intel with its mobile and wireless processors, Dell with its personal digital assistants and online music service, Apple with its iPod and iTunes and HP with its digital photo strategy.

Samsung's announcement in Istanbul puts the company squarely in front of these other "expansionists" into the digital lifestyle frontier, although the company is quick to point out that the center of digital convergence will be the home-based entertainment system and not the personal computer. For example, Samsung has released a 20-Gb MP3 player and recorder that allows you to download songs legally from Napster version 2.0, rivaling the iPod and the music download service of both Apple and Dell. It also released digital cameras and color laser printers against HP and new mobile camera phones-cum-organizer to rival Nokia and Microsoft. The company also goes head-on with Dell and Intel with the release of what Samsung claims is the thinnest and lightest notebook computer and several digital assistants based on Symbian, Palm and PocketPC operating systems.

By the first quarter of 2004, Samsung will square off with Intel with what it claims would be the fastest mobile CPU at 533 MHz. The company also announced plans for the first 70-nanometer, 4-Gb flash memory. For non-geeks, this means about 5,000 MP3 files or about five hours of video on a single storage card you can swap among various audio and video devices.

To complete the digital lifestyle roster, Samsung also released a robotic vacuum cleaner and an intelligent side-by-side fridge-freezer that tells you when you're running low on milk or eggs.

Samsung's announcements continue to put pressure on Sony, its chief rival. The company released the world's first MPEG4 digital camcorder that stores video on a built-in 1.5-Gb hard disk drive, a 70-inch plasma TV and the biggest TFT-LCD TV at 54 inches. Also released were a DVD player with a digital visual interface and rear-reflecting Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound system that do not use cables for the satellite speakers.

Samsung has been hitting Sony where it hurts—capitalizing on the Japanese company's losses and its late entry into the flat, widescreen TV market. Yet, the South Korean company is keeping its eggs in several baskets, partnering with Sony on the same day it announced global losses and its plans to cut jobs. Sony and Samsung will establish a joint venture based in South Korea that will create seventh-generation TFT-LCD panel displays for flat TVs, signaling Sony's admission that it needs help in the flat-panel market.

Samsung has also been keeping its eggs in several baskets technology-wise, manufacturing cell phones for both CDMA and GSM regions, producing both LCD and plasma TVs, manufacturing PDAs based on Symbian, Palm and PocketPC platforms, and using Intel chips for its products while producing semiconductors for Intel competitors as well.

Behind this aggressive market push is Samsung's uncanny ability to stay afloat while others are sinking. Samsung is coming from a net profit of $5.9 billion in 2002, up from $2.2 billion in 2001. This has enabled the company to pour in $2 billion in research and development for 2002, or more than 30 percent of its net profit for the year. Driving Samsung's innovative engine, said CEO Yun, are 1,800 Ph. D. holders.

The company's aggressiveness is also buoyed up by the fact that Samsung has been named by Interbrand as the fastest growing brand in the world for 2002 and 2001. The company's brand value rose from $8.3 billion in 2002 to $10.8 billion this year, according to figures released by Interbrand in July.

Samsung CEO Yun probably summed up the reason behind the company's bravado and willingness to mix it up with IT giants in a slide showing Samsung's profit level. The company, according to Yun, is now the second most profitable in the industry, next only to Microsoft and trailed by IBM and Nokia in third and fourth places. Placing the company side-by-side with such technology giants shows how Samsung sees itself as no longer just a consumer electronics player but a serious digital lifestyle player as well.

Fujitsu announces job cuts at Philippine software arm

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

AT least 70 employees detailed at a software services subsidiary of Fujitsu Philippines Inc. (FPI) were laid off as part of an attrition program being implemented this year, a top official told Infotech.

"You have to understand that a large part of our (FPI's) business is exports. The (software) export market is down for the past years," said FPI president Felipe Manalang.

He added that outsourcing projects have declined due to the lingering weakness in the US economy, and noted that there had been a 75 percent reduction in US-based outsourcing projects since 2000.

On top of the job cuts in WeServ Systems International, Fujitsu Philippines' software services subsidiary, were structural changes, the executive said.

FPI started offering voluntary early retirement packages to employees who had been with the company for at least 10 years.

To date, close to 30 employees have availed of the program, the executive said.

FPI had also started outsourcing "non-essential and clerical services" to a third party, which caused 40 to 50 employees to lose their jobs.

Manalang said that the decision to let go a lot of employees was nothing but "painful" for the company.

"This is the first time in more than 20 years that the company has cut jobs," the executive said, noting that the company could have done this in 2002 but postponed it until this year.

From close to a 1,000 employees, Manalang said that the total FPI employee headcount has now slid to 840.

"On hindsight, we should have reduced our headcount last year but we were hoping that the US software market would improve," Manalang said. "But people are saying that the situation will only improve until after the US elections in 2004."

To soften the blow of the job cuts, FPI has set up an outplacement service for ex-employees. Apart from helping them get over the "traumatic" experience, the program has been helping the former FPI employees deal with their future, Manalang said.

WeServ is among the top software houses in the Philippines, employing hundreds of employees.

Manalang said that the subsidiary's experience was not isolated, as many Philippine software houses are also cutting jobs since last year.

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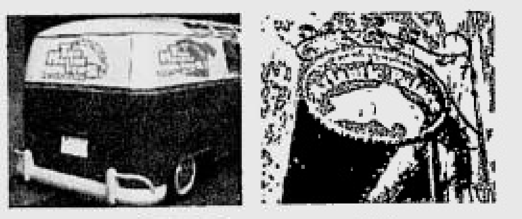

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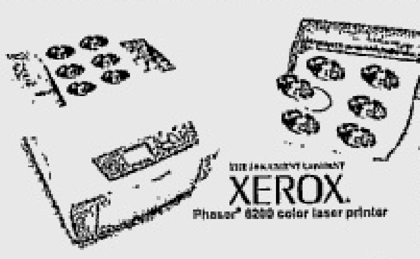

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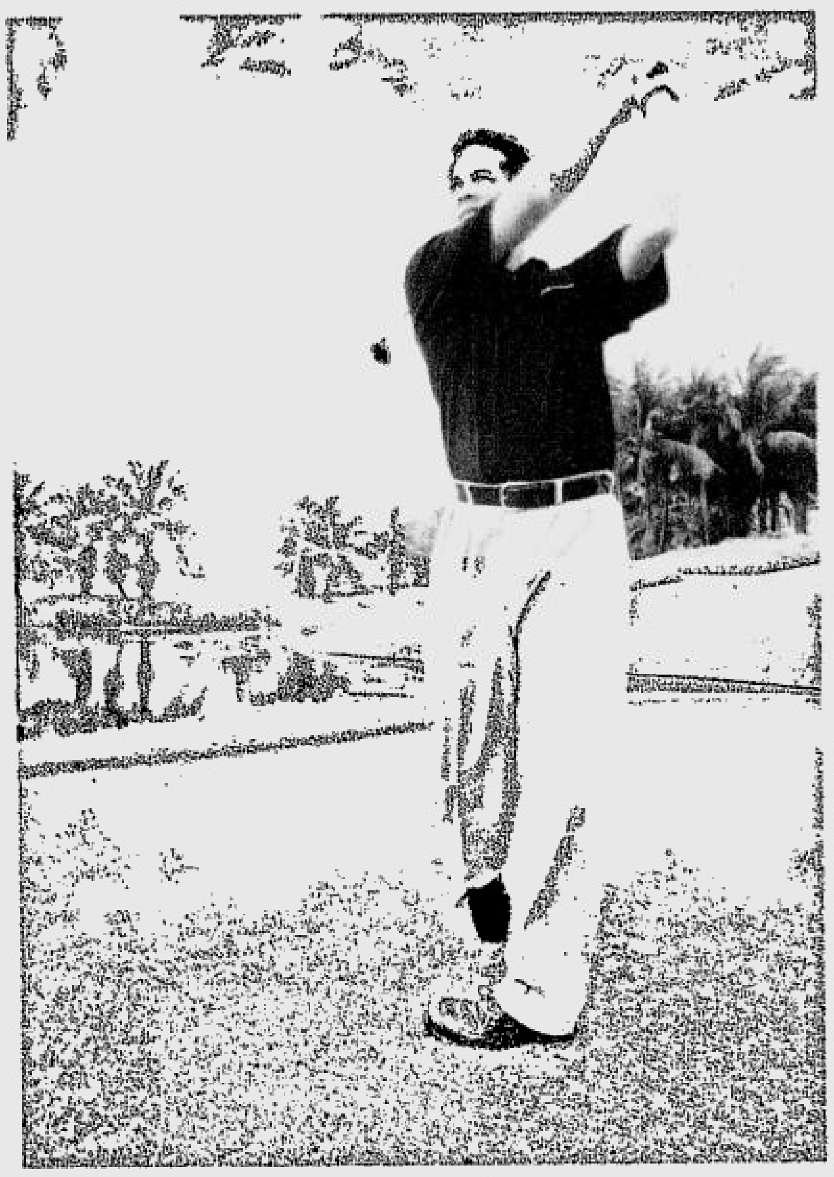

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THREATENED FORTUNES

Why 'The Boss' Danding wants Davide out

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

THE DRIVE to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. has rocked the whole nation. It has scared away investments and has sent the peso on a steep dive.

What's behind it all?

It seems that an immense fortune is threatened.

Taxing the farmers

It all began during the dictatorship era of President Ferdinand Marcos. His decrees required coconut farmers to pay a fee for every 100 Kilograms of copra they sold. The forced taxes were known as the coco levy.

From 1973 to 1982, Marcos imposed more levies by decree. Today the total amount adds up to about a P100 billion!

Marcos appointed his friend Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to be the administrator of the fund. The massive sums collected from all those farmers eventually passed into the hands of the crony.

The Philippine Coconut Federation Inc. (Cocofed) advanced money on behalf of Cojuangco to buy shares of the First United Bank or FUB.

Presidential Decree No. 755 allowed Danding and Cocofed to acquire the bank, so the shares were transferred to him in 1975. The bank was renamed United Coconut Planters Bank.

Eventually Danding used his immense resources to stockpile shares in San Miguel Corp. He is the current chair.

Back to the people

"The money used to buy these FUB shares ... and many other transactions came from coco levy funds. As simple as that," said Frank Chavez, former solicitor general. Chavez had filed charges against the magnate after the collapse of the Marcos regime.

In a landmark decision in December 2001, the Supreme Court ruled that the coco levy funds were "public in character." However, the high court left it up to the Sandiganbayan, the anti-graft court, to decide who owned the funds.

Then in July 2003 the Sandiganbayan ruled that the Marcos' Presidential Decree 755 was unconstitutional. It declared that Cojuangco's stake in UCPB was acquired illegally.

"The above mentioned shares of stock of the [UCPB] transferred to defendant Cojuangco are hereby declared conclusively owned by the plaintiff Republic of the Philippines," stated the Sandiganbayan.

His UCPB shares were thus forfeited in favor of the government.

According to a July 2003 INQUIRER report, UPCB administered a 27 percent slice of San Miguel stocks. Danding controlled another 20 percent.

Threat of cases

The Supreme Court has ordered the Ombudsman to file two major cases against Cojuangco with the Sandiganbayan.

One charges the magnate of misappropriating funds to his Agriculture Investors Inc. for a coconut seed garden project. Accused of corruption, he is alleged to have diverted P840 million in coco levy funds to that company in Bugsuk Island, Palawan.

In 2001 the Supreme Court ruled that the Ombudsman should proceed with the preliminary investigation of the case.

Another is the Unicom suit: it charges Cojuangco with the illegal Purchase of 16 coconut oil mills. The Ombudsman had dismissed it, but in 2002 the Supreme Court ordered its reopening.

Moreover, there are at least nine civil cases pending in the Sandiganbayan where Danding is a defendant.

Put it all together. Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. is in legal hot water.

Because of an independent Supreme Court, he stands to lose much of his vast wealth gained during the Marcos era.

How then can he fight back? Some hypotheses: 1) threaten the Supreme Court, 2) erode its credibility, 3) get that stubborn Chief Justice to resign.

Cojuangco is the big boss of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC).

It seems that the party's move to impeach the Chief Justice is his big punch to the

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Editor Aries Espinosa

PCCI, PBC favor business missions to India

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) expressed its support and commendation to the Philippines-India Business Council (PIBC) for the latter's magnanimous efforts in organizing the business mission to India starting Nov. 9 to 16.

According to PCCI president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr, the mission aims to reintroduce India to the country not only as another resource but also as an upcoming market to some 300 million middle-class consumers.

"India's economy is on an upswing trend. India owes that favorable business climate to its now flourishing and diverse industries," Ortiz said. "Among the top emerging business sectors are India's agriculture and food processing, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, healthcare services, entertainment, human resource development, technical and higher education, information and telecommunication, infrastructure, auto components and manufacturing, tourism, oil and gas, financial services and insurance, among others."

PIBC council chair Raju Mandhyan announced that the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) are also arranging several business meetings, specifically the one-on-one business matching with Indian counterparts.

"The business mission will also coincide with the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2003. This was said to be the largest and most attended trade fair in India," said Mandhyan.

IITF will showcase India's achievements covering the tourism, health, environment, agricultural products, processed food, information technology, pharmaceutical, telecommunication, infrastructure, services, engineering industry, electronics, automobile industry, textile, jewelry, gifts and handicrafts, plastics and herbal products.

Ortiz said that by participating in this mission, he hopes that new doors for business opportunities and other promising partnerships for Filipino and Indian entrepreneurs will be opened.

"Let us join efforts in exploring what India has in store for us. Let us also continue fostering mutual understanding and lasting camaraderie among our neighboring nations. We can achieve all these through sound business exchange and support," Ortiz said.

Moreover, Samie Lim, chair of the 29th Philippine Business Conference (PBC)-also organized by PCCI-voiced his support to the business mission to India. He quips that it is activities like this that create more leeway for the country in strengthening its ties to other foreign countries.

"We value the country's international relations and this is quite evident at the 29th PBC. In fact, we are dedicating a day of the conference in tribute to our international friends," Lim said.

ANOTHER SOGO STORE AT METRO EAST

Continuing its marketing efforts at expanding the retail business, Sogo Home & Office Center, the one-stop shop for home and office appliances and furniture, recently opened its 8th store at Level 4 of Robinsons Metro East in Marcos Highway, Pasig City. Like all its other branches, the newest Sogo Home & Office Center provides unique retail displays of modern and practical furniture, appliances and household items designed to meet everyone's needs. For 13 years, Sogo Home & Office Center has stood out in providing quality service, shopping convenience and budget-friendly varieties of world-class products, including exclusive collections sourced from different top manufacturers. Shown at the opening of the new Sogo Metro East store are (from left) Sogo president Samie Lim, Anna Marie Periquet, president, Aurelio Periquet Foundation, Nilo Mapa, GM, Robinsons Land Inc, Bing Limjoco, vice chair, Philippine Retailers Association and Julie Lim (right), VP, Sogo Home & Office Center. Call your Sogo branch at 935-8923, 632-0672, 867-2352, 850-3539, 230-4185 and 647-8805.

Extended shopping delight at 3rd World Bazaar Festival

THE WORLD Bazaar Festival, the grandest and biggest Christmas bazaar in the country, will go on its third run at the World Trade Center in Pasay City from Dec. 4 to 14.

"Due to public clamor, we're bringing back the biggest and grandest bazaar in the Philippines," said Joseph L. Ang, founding chair of Worldbex Services International, organizer of the World Bazaar. "What's even better, we are extending its run to 11 days, which is five days more than last year. So that means more shopping days for the bazaar-loving Pinoys."

According to Ang, Worldbex is now accepting applications for exhibitors in the 3rd World Bazaar Festival. "This is a great opportunity for entrepreneurs to get the necessary exposure. Last year, more than 50,000 shoppers came to check out the merchandise at the bazaar. With this extended run, we're expecting the number of shoppers to increase, or to even double," Ang said.

"We got positive feedback from last year's exhibitors, especially from first-time entrepreneurs. They said the 2nd World Bazaar Festival gave their small businesses the necessary push to take off," said Ang. "In fact, most of them will be participating in this year's bazaar."

Ang further noted that other bazaars operate for only two or three days. "That gives limited buying opportunities for the shoppers and minimal exposure for the exhibitors," added Ang. "As a result the return of investment is small."

The 3rd World Bazaar Festival, like the first two, will occupy a 20,000-square-meter wide shopping area at the World Trade Center and will feature top-of-the-line merchandise such as toys, home decorations, Christmas décor, clothing and accessories, home and office furnishing, music products, holiday food, gift and other novelty items. As part of World Bazaar Festival's yearly tradition, kids and adults will once again get the chance to see the real Finnish Santa Claus up close and join the photo session.

The bazaar will be open from 10 a.m. to 12 midnight. Ang explained this is perfect for shoppers who don't have the time to swing by the stores during the day; they can shop to their hearts' content at night.

The 3rd World Bazaar Festival was organized once again exclusively for the benefit of Bantay Bata 163. "This will be our advance Christmas gift for the children," Ang said.

Interested exhibitors and visitors to the World Bazaar Festival may call Worldbex Services International at 531-6374 and 531-6350, or e-mail info@worldbex.com. For more information log on to www.worldbex.com.

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WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Rotary Club of Manila Diamond, led by Charter president Richard Alviar in coordination with Taiwan Roots Medical Peace Corps (led by president Dr. Lui, Chi-Chun), conducted medical and dental missions in Barangay Baseco, Manila, serving over 2,000 indigents of the community. Dr. Wu Hsin Shing, Representative of the Taipe Economic and Cultural Office (Teco), and his key officers were present to support the mission. Shown, from left, are Robert Yao, vice president, Laurence Ang, treasurer, Robert Que, director of RC Manila Diamond, Ruby Bairan, district governor special representative, Dr. Chang, Yu-Tai, Taiwan Roots Jun So Chi, international director of RC Diamond, Dr. Wu Hsin Shing, Dr. Lui, Chi-Chun, Benny Lao, RC Diamond secretary, Dr. Juang Guang Hue, vice team leader, Taiwan Roots, Wang Ming and Lincoln YC Ting, Director and Deputy Director of Teco, Sanny Tan, RC Diamond assistant, and Robert Shih, Director of Information, Teco. The district governor of RI District 3810 is Alex Huang.

HARVARD ALUMNI TOAST ANGELO REYES

The Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Alumni Foundation recently honored former DND Secretary Angelo T. Reyes in recognition of his outstanding public service and in appreciation of his staunch support for democracy. Members of the foundation consist of top executives in the public and private sectors who completed masteral degree programs at Harvard University. Shown are the officers of the foundation toasting Reyes, from left, Assistant Solicitor General Karl Miranda (MPA '98), FEU Law dean lawyer Andy Bautista (LLM '93), DAR Usec Lorenzo Reyes (MPA '00), president Chato Calderon (MPA '88), Reyes (MPA '90), Gen. Victor Corpus (MPA '90), Alberto Lim (MPA '90), Mariano Salazar (MPA '91), Sally de la Paz-Magat (MPA '88), and Laurence Pochard (MPA '95).

LEO BURNETT BEST IN MARKET PERFORMANCE

Leo Burnett Manila added a new feather to its cap when it won the 2002 Agency of the Year's Best in Market Performance Award held Aug. 29 at the Shangri-La Makati Hotel. The award recognizes the advertising agency whose exceptional marketing and strategic skills impacted greatly on the selling success of a product being advertised. Leo Burnett won the award for the internationally and locally acclaimed McDonald's 'Karen' TVC. Shown are LB's March Ventosa (right), managing director, and Sue Ann Nolido, account director for McDonald's, receiving the award from Manolito Montes (left), partner, Sycip, Gorres & Velayo (SGV) & Co and Guillermo Luz, Makati Business Club executive director.

ROBINSONS SUPERMARKETS BABY WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Little tots' winning grins earned dream showcases, while lucky customers got the chance to bring home equally fabulous prizes as well as enjoy discounts on varied baby products in Robinsons Supermarket's recently concluded Baby Fair. The winners were chosen by a select panel of judges that included professional photographer Noby Cabanero, members of the Robinsons Supermarket management and representatives from sponsors Nestlé, Mead Johnson and Wyeth. Over 1,400 babies were entered in the competition. The winners of the photo contest and raffle promo were announced during a special show at the fountain area of Robinsons Galleria. The event featured performances by child star Goyong and the Fusion dancers and dance numbers from Sustagen mascots Susie and Geno, Tender Care Bear and Nestlé Baby Bear. TV personality Ruby Rodriguez hosted the show. Shown are the winners, from left, Nestlé Baby Alfonso Rhys Lopez with mom Mary Rose, Robinsons Baby Kim Anjelo Magbanua with mom Jane, Enfagrow Baby Margarita Isabelle de Leon with mom Liberty, and Promil Kid Baby Alexandra Mari Nicole Perez with mom Dainielle Francis.

Strong microfinance player emerging in Mindanao

LEVERAGING on their financial stability and reputation for service excellence, three of the Philippines' top microfinance institutions, the Network Rural Bank (NRB), Rural Bank of Panabo (RBP) and Provident Rural Bank (PRB), are consolidating to form One Network Rural Bank, a consolidated countryside bank that intends to bring its own brand of professional, personalized service to Mindanao communities.

With NRB, RBP and PRB occupying the 2nd, 4th and 8th slots, respectively in PDIC's list of top rural banks nationwide in terms of net income in 2002, this move is intended to maximize existing strengths and provide opportunities for strategic expansion across Mindanao. The most immediate benefactors will be the consolidating banks' client base through increased bank stability, wider availability of branches and improved customer service and support systems. New clients can expect commercial bank quality service with a countryside bank's personal touch.

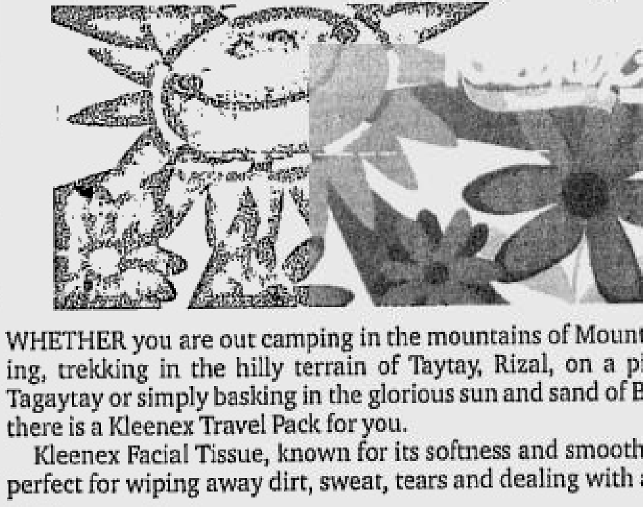
This consolidation is in line with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' drive to streamline and strengthen the banking sector by encouraging mergers and consolidations among financial institutions.

The formation of One Network Rural Bank is already underway with the approval of the consolidation from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Co (PDIC) dated July 18 this year.

According to the consolidation plan, One Network Rural Bank will be fully consolidated before the end of 2003 and Mindanao rural folk can enjoy the benefits of a larger and stronger banking institution with the same homegrown, friendly service they have known through the years.

ProductFILES

Kleenex wherever you go



WHETHER you are out camping in the mountains of Mount Makiling, trekking in the hilly terrain of Taytay, Rizal, on a picnic in Tagaytay or simply basking in the glorious sun and sand of Boracay, there is a Kleenex Travel Pack for you.

Kleenex Facial Tissue, known for its softness and smoothness, is perfect for wiping away dirt, sweat, tears and dealing with a runny nose.

Kleenex Facial Tissues come in what consumers probably know as Kleenex Travellers and Kleenex Expressions packs. Both come in a mini pack of 10 pulls, packs of 100 and 150 pulls.

There are also a number of attractive designs to choose from. The Kleenex Travellers Packs come in fun summer designs, while Kleenex Expressions has three new colorful designs in blue, violet, and fuchsia that cater to those modern women who want something more stylish and hip.

Telling someone she needs to improve her manners, and the proper way to do introductions

Goodness Graces

Lia S. Bernardo

Q: How do I subtly tell my officemate she needs to improve her table manners?

A: Having gotten two emails to this effect, it seems as if the issue of how to tell a co-worker that he/she needs to improve on his/her manners is quite a challenge. No one wants to be told they are ill-mannered, especially by a co-worker.

The best way to do this is to ask your officemate out for lunch or *merienda*. During this time tell her that what you are about to tell her is for her own good and that you are very concerned about how other people see her and the impression she gives to other people.

Explain to her that sometimes people in the office tend to be uncomfortable around her because of certain things she does. Make sure you site specific examples.

Q: What is the proper way to introduce a lady boss who is higher in rank than the men I am suppose to introduce her to?

A: You must remember that in business etiquette hierarchy is based on the position one holds regardless of gender. In social etiquette it is the woman who always holds the higher position, not the men. The trick with introductions is to mention the name of the person with the highest position first. For example: "Mrs. Santos I would like you to meet our new Marketing Assistant, Mr. Gabriel Guzman. Gabriel, this is our president, Mrs. Claudia Santos."

Even if your boss is male and you are introducing him to your wife, at a social function, say you happen to be at the same wedding, the introduction goes as follows: "Maria, this is our company president, Mr. Carlos Lacson. Mr. Lacson, I'd like for you to meet my wife Maria."

Bear in mind however that if the function is a business function, like the company Christmas party, then the introduction would go as: "Mr. Lacson, this is my wife Maria."

Regarding your situation where your boss is a woman, she should always take the higher position socially, in business functions however, this only holds true while there is no one else higher in rank than her. If you were introducing your lady company president to a client or to the chair of the board, then they should be held in a higher position.

Thus, if you were to introduce Ms. Santos to a male client the introduction should go as follows: "Mr. Reyes, I would like you to meet our president, Mrs. Claudia Santos. Mrs. Santos this is Mr. Reyes."

Q: How do I converse with business associates from other countries outside office matters?

A: In cross-cultural conversation you want to stay away from sensitive subjects such as politics, religion, etc. Good topics are the arts (music, movies or the film industry, theater) books, food (cooking and eating), anything you both have shared such as the conference you just attended.

Travel is an excellent topic. Get them to talk about their country, their culture and ways of doing things. That way you can also learn directly from the source on how things are done in their part of the world so you can have an upper hand when it is your turn to visit.

You can talk about hobbies such as rock climbing or fishing or other non-competitive sports. Computers and the latest gadgets make for interesting conversation. The trick is to find your commonalities and stick to small talk, not in-depth analysis of a subject. The best trick of all is to find a topic they like to talk about and let them do the talking. You'll find that everyone's favorite subject is themselves.

You'll also get points for being an excellent listener.

(Please email your business etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com names of senders will not be published.)

Why 'The Boss' Danding . . .

From page B2-1

Supreme Court.

Won't win presidency

Will Danding try to capture the Presidency? Unlikely: he does not have much voter support, as seen in the polls of Social Weather Stations.

Take the July 2003 SWS survey for example. Registered voters were asked, "Who would you prefer as administration presidential candidate:

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo or Ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco?"

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo 45 percent

Ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco 28

None 23

The same July SWS poll also provided a list of possible Presidential candidates.

"Among the names found in this list, who will you probably vote for as President of the Philippines if elections were held today?"

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo 20 percent

Mr. Raul Roco 19

Senator Noli De Castro 18

Mr. Fernando Poe. Jr. 15

Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson 11

Ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco 6

Senator Ramon "Jun" Magsaysay Jr. 4

Senator Juan "Johnny" Flavier 4

Undecided 1

None 2

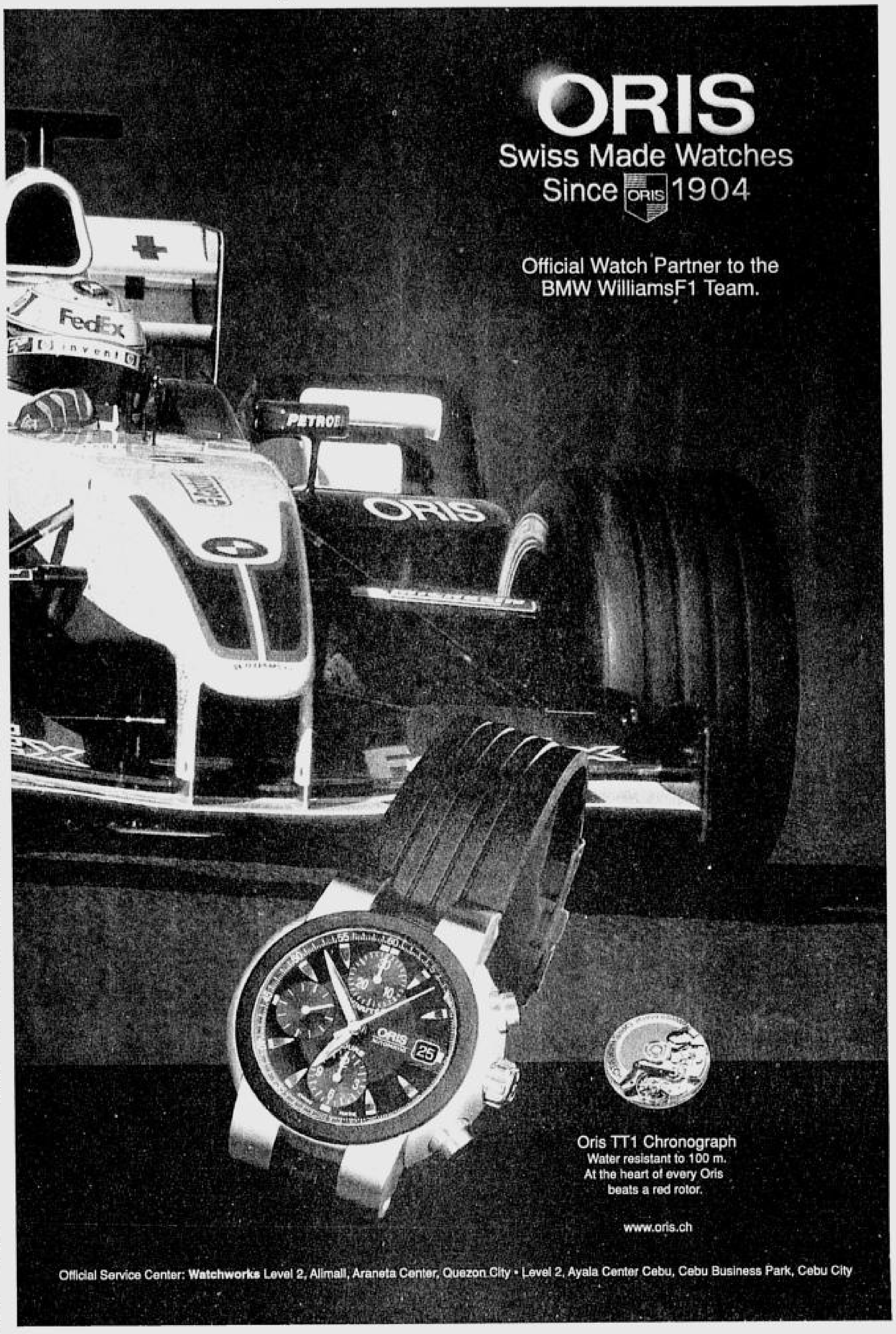
In the SWS September 2003 poll, Danding got only 4 percent.

Cut and cut clean

Hence, the magnate knows that his election chances are not bright. He probably prefers the role of king-maker to king. It would make more sense for him to support a candidate who isn't hostile to his interests. Further, he will likely use his resources to strengthen his NPC.

The Nationalist People's Coalition is loyal to the interests of a Powerful man. President Macapagal, do the right thing and cut your alliance with that party.

Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com>



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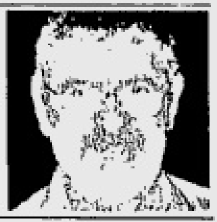
Peter L. Wallace



ON CALIRAYA lake people catch fish by going out in a small boat with a rod, line and lots of patience.

We go fishing by walking down to our dock early in the morning and buying the catch of the local fishermen who have been out all night catching fish for us.

That's our unique way of getting fresh fish and, at the same time, supporting the local community.

Today we need a unique way to re-orient our businesses in order to survive, let alone prosper.

The uncertainties of the political and, hence, business environment that we are currently experiencing can be likened to the uncertainties of what's below the turbulent waters of a lake—and whether there's a way they can be profited from.

The world is moving inexorably toward an open, interactive economy. Barriers are coming down as the ability to move goods and services becomes ever easier and faster.

It used to be that a country strove to be self-sufficient and to protect those endeavors that couldn't compete against more efficient production elsewhere.

Those times have gone. Success today will be in "niche marketing." Identifying a business where the Philippines—or you—has unique advantage.

Natural advantage

On the macro scale I have identified 5 areas of what I call "NATURAL ADVANTAGE." These are activities where we have an inherent advantage.

Agriculture. We have fertile soil, good climate. We CAN be a leader in efficient production of selected crops—not rice, let someone else do it cheaper. And buy it with wealth created by growing asparagus, or other higher-value, specialized crops. Which in turn can be processed for export. Adding further value and business opportunities (food processing is one of the few businesses that is still doing well).

Mining. The Arab world is rich. Not through hard work, but because they have oil—and sell it. The Philippines has gold. And copper, nickel and chromite. And is one of the top 10 in the amount of gold and copper deposits. Last year mining earned a scant $397 million in exports.

The potential is, for a conservative estimate of 5 world class mines, over $4 billion of inward investment and $2 billion of exports annually. Not to mention the thousands of jobs created in the provinces where the jobs are needed.

Instead of exploiting this wealth the country sits back and relaxes—in poverty.

The Supreme Court has sat on deciding if the Mining Act is constitutional for an incredible six years. Foreign capital which the Mining Act would allow if found constitutional by the Court is essential for the development of mining.

The delay has cost the country at least $2 billion annually in lost revenues. And countless jobs for unemployed people.

Tourism. The Philippines has some of the most beautiful places to visit in Asia. And arguably the friendliest people, (why do you think I stay). But getting to them is a nightmare. And being kidnapped, your worst nightmares come true. Yet tourism harnesses the natural "wish-to-help" that Filipinos are born with.

However, until government (and there's a whole separate subject in itself.

The "roadblocks" government introduces wittingly or unwittingly, into developing and continuing a business are legend) develops the infrastructure to get to the tourist spots tourists won't come. This is a basic, fundamental role of any government.

Their failure to provide that necessary infrastructure has severely restricted the development of the tourism industry. Boracay is beautiful, getting to it? You know the answer.

And the government's inability to ensure the safety of its citizens and visitors (again a primary function of a government) means tourists won't come. "Adventure" tours don't sell to any but the smallest of markets.

The potential is there. The business community needs to push the government to more aggressively ensure the security of visitors and provide the means to travel painlessly to tourist destinations.

Nothing has to be done about the friendliness of the Filipino. It's there in abundance.

IT. For whatever reason, Filipinos seem to have a natural empathy for the computer. Their ability to speak English, translated from 0s and 1s language of computers has put them at the forefront of the IT world.

A pre-eminent place we can hold—or lose. Lose if the educational system isn't rapidly improved, and English brought back as the primary language of education. As it used to be.

A job in IT needs only $8,300 of investment. The same job needs $67,000 in the manufacturing sector.

Call centers

There are already 20,000 seats in call centers in the Philippines.

That equates to potentially 40,000 - 60,000 well-paying jobs (so far, call center firms have hired 27,000).

But it's not just call centers, which are at the lower end of the IT totem pole, but accounting, engineering drawing, animation and business process outsourcing even, especially, software development.

We are in the Information Revolution. We missed the agriculture revolution. We missed the industrial revolution. We can't afford to miss the Information Revolution.

What you see today is the tip of what it will be tomorrow. The scope for development is breathtaking. And the Philippines can be a leader—IF the attention necessary is given to it.

It's hard to understand why a Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) hasn't been created.

To give it the importance, the focussed, high-level attention it must have.

There's a department for agriculture, a department for industry, even , in a way, one for mining (the DENR—but that needs some modification to separate promotion from regulation).

I would, as I'm suggesting in IT, have a separate department for the development of natural resources.

The DENR then focusing on control of the environment. But there is no department to develop IT. There must be if the Philippines is to lead in this arena. As it could.

Positive development

Congress needs to do something positive for a change and pass the DICT bill that has been sitting there for about 2 years now.

Caregiving. The Western world throws it's old people away—look at the horrific deaths of the elderly during the heat wave in Paris when families had gone off on vacation and left the grandparents home.

Filipinos would never do that. Their care for the sick and elderly (a concept I like more and more as I grow older) is legend. It is an opportunity.

Nurses to America? Sure. But why not elderly Americans to retirement homes by the sea (or a lake) in the Philippines.

The world is aging. The need for people to look after the sick and the elderly is skyrocketing. It's an opportunity for the Philippines.

But let's not see a plethora of half-baked nursing schools to "take advantage"—not of providing the professionals needed.

But of making money from the gullible, who don't realize the qualification they get won't be internationally acceptable. Accreditation of schools (to international standards) is a function government can and must perform.

Expertise

These then are the five areas of expertise the Philippines should focus on. And give every support and incentive necessary to accelerate the growth of these sectors.

These are the five sectors entrepreneurs should consider for the best business opportunities.

Thailand has a program of "one product, one village." Specialize in a product in a restricted area so full focus can be given to it. It works.

The Philippines, as a country should specialize. Specialize in the five areas I've enumerated above. If the focus can be directed to just five areas the potential to succeed at them is high.

Let's do it. Let's try some new fishing gear.

(The author is president of the Wallace Business Forum and member of the Management Association of the Philippines. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

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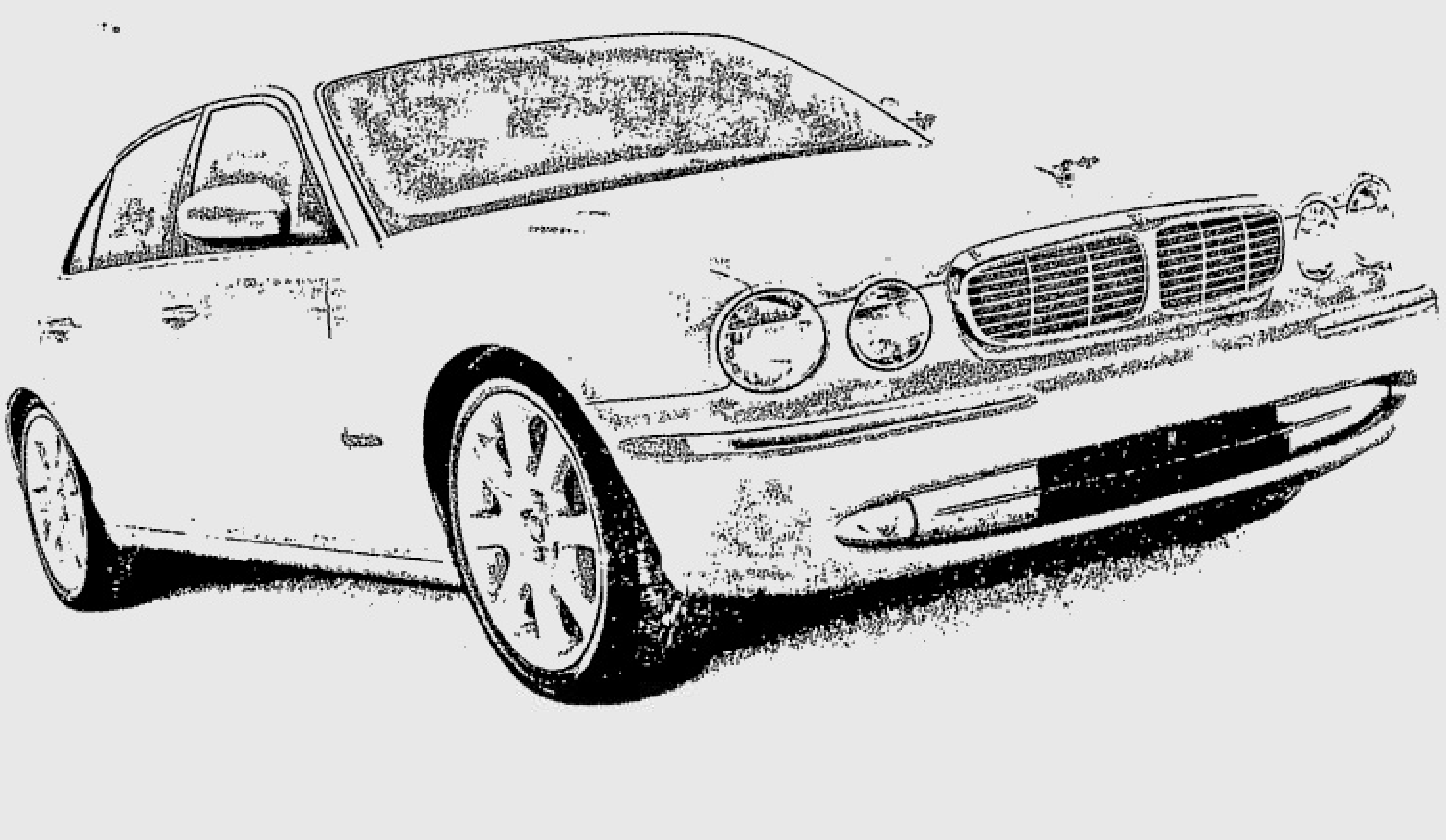

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STANDING BY his woman is Stella's boyfriend, Milano Sanchez, Korina's kid brother.

RUDY ESPERAS

Stella L thankful for Kris-Joey split

By Nini Valera

SEXY starlet Stella L. thanks her boyfriend Milano Sanchez for being with her when her name was dragged into the controversial split of talk show host Kris Aquino and actor-politician Joey Marquez.

In the heat of the Kris-Joey controversy, Stella and Jackie Forster were identified as Joey's two other women even while he was with Kris. Stella was also identified as the woman who reportedly had given Joey a sexually transmitted disease.

"I love Kris for that," said Stella, referring to the talk show host's admission that she had been jealous of Stella and Jackie. "When (Kris) mentioned my name during the Joey issue, everybody became interested in me," she explained. "Now, I have so many projects. *Nabuhay ako ulit* (I'm alive again)."

Her boyfriend Milano, 31, is the younger brother of broadcaster Korina Sanchez, to whom Kris gave her exclusive, no-holds-barred interview on "TV Patrol" on her violent breakup with the mayor of Parañaque City. Kris and Korina are also co-hosts of "Morning Girls."

"We have been together since year 2000," Milano told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "When I met her, she was already a bold actress. It's just a job. What she tells me, that's it. She's not spreading herself too thinly."

Milano said his sister Korina knew that he has been seeing Stella even before the Kris-Joey affair. He said Korina also knew that he and Stella were together when Kris dropped her bombshell.

"But we don't talk about personal matters," he said. "Korina has not met Stella, but my mother has. I only see my sister on Sundays, during family gatherings."

According to him, during the Kris-Joey split, Stella, 33, was in Milano's house when Joey contacted her on her cell phone. Joey asked Stella what she would be telling a radio interview on her alleged role in the breakup.

"He (Joey) was fishing for information," Milano said. "He apparently wanted to know what Stella would be saying during the radio interview."

Stella said she told Joey she would be only telling the truth.

The truth, according to Stella, was that Joey had courted her after they met last January. She and Milano were in one of their "off" periods at that time.

"We have been together since 2000, but it's an on and off relationship," Stella said.

'Talong, galunggong'

She said Joey had started calling her on her cell phone after they met. Their first date was dinner at Sukiji, a Japanese restaurant on Pasay Road in Makati City.

STELLA/ C5

STREISAND

Barbra sells clothes

/C3

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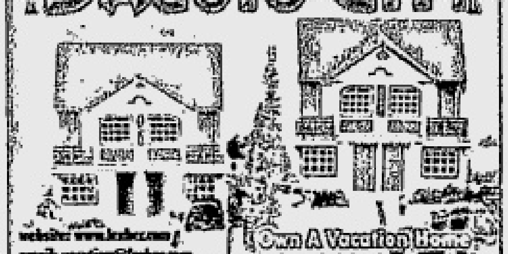

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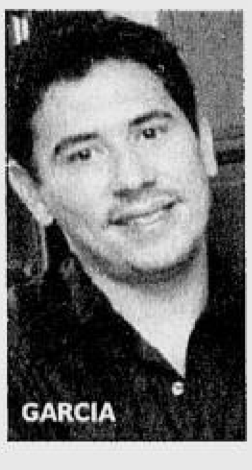
The return of Mariah

/C5

CAREY

DID YOU KNOW...

American pop singer **Mandy Moore** is also reportedly performing in Cebu after her Nov. 21 show at The Fort open field, produced by MTV Philippines. A local TV network negotiated with Mandy's representative so she could perform for the network's night at the Advertising Congress in Baguio City, Nov. 19 to 22. But Mandy's rep reportedly asked for a fee of US $65,000 (P3.6 million) for only five songs. The network did not bite. The US singer is one of several foreign stars to swamp Manila in the last two months of the year, threatening to drown out the voices of their Filipino counterparts who have their own shows in the same period, including **Gary Valenciano** and **Regine Velasquez**.



GARCIA

Enter Bobby Garcia

/C2

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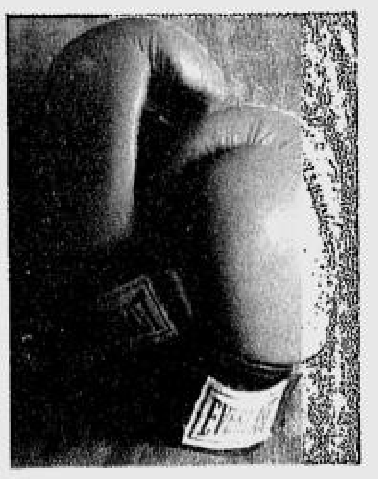
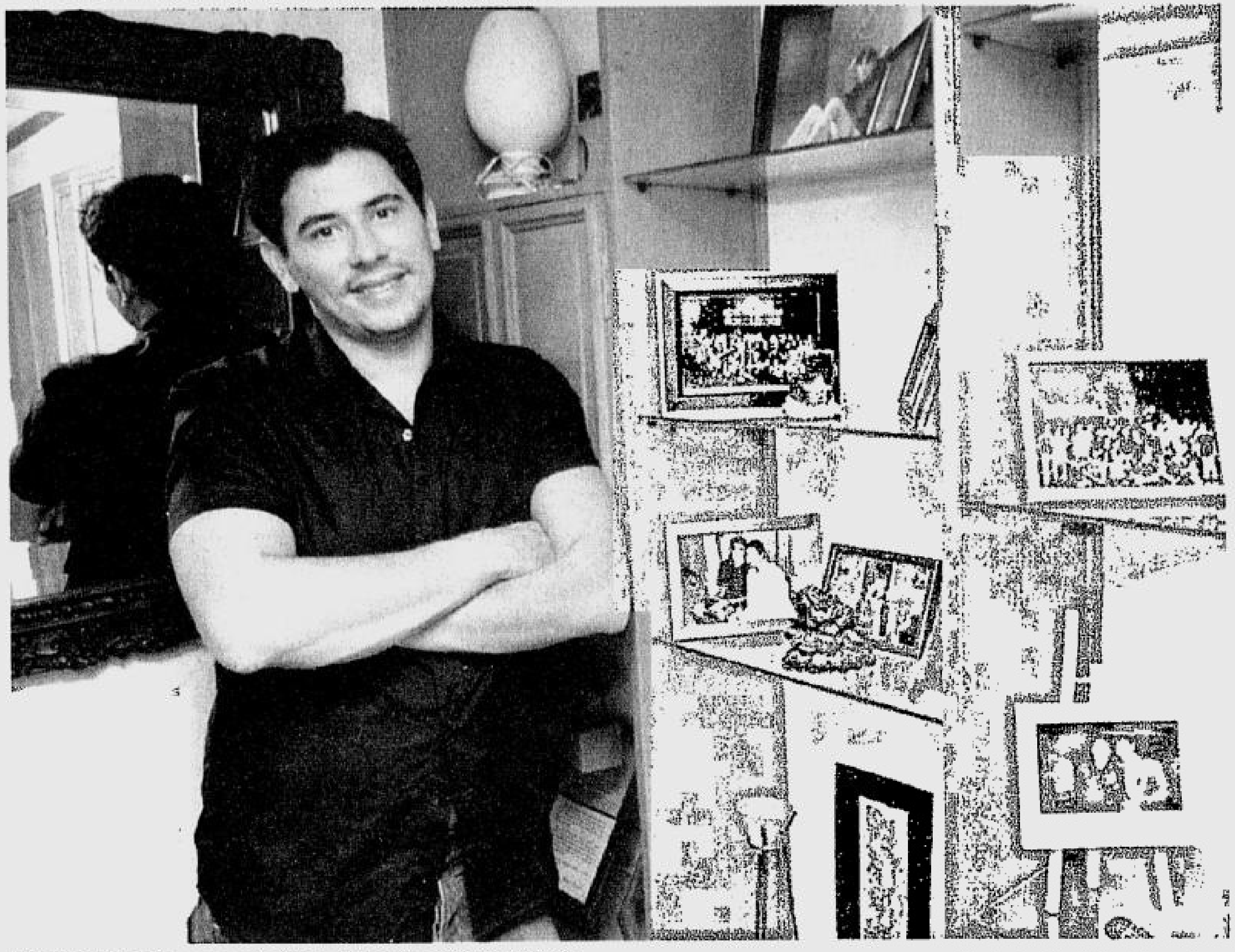


GLOVE LIFE. He uses these in sessions with Paolo Villaroel, Carmina's brod.

> He does not get nervous or stressed out on the eve of opening night 'because I know that I have done my best'

CHEAP CHIC. Zarah shirt from Spain

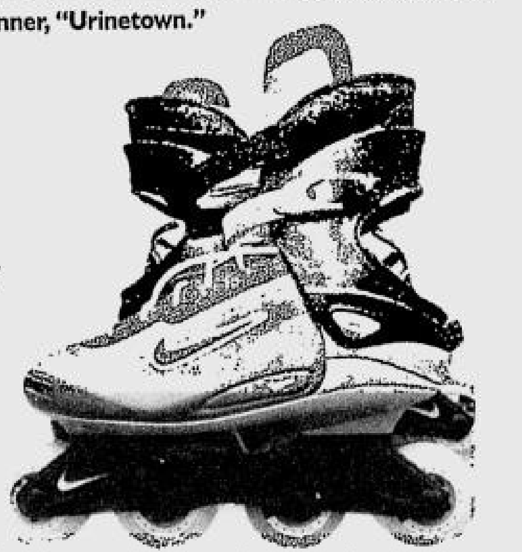


STAGE HAND. His next project is the Tony winner, "Urinetown."

Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

SHANGHAIED. Silk shirt from Shanghai Tang, bought in Singapore

Enter Bobby Garcia —on roller blades



By Marinel R. Cruz

BOBBY Garcia, director of the biggest recent successes in Philippine theater, says he still does not have a surefire formula for what will succeed as theater.

"Filipino theatergoers are very hard to please," says Garcia, the artistic director of Atlantis Production. "You never know what's going to attract them. So, what we do is try to give them the best form of theater entertainment and hopefully, they'll come and appreciate it."

Garcia goes to the United States every year in search of musicals that he thinks Filipino audiences would enjoy watching, like "Dreamgirls" and "Rocky Horror Show" that Atlantis brought to Manila early this year.

Come December, Atlantis is staging another musical, the much-talked about Tony winner "Urinetown," which he hopes Filipinos would also appreciate.

"It's a satire," he explains, during this interview in his Makati City condo unit. "It's about a Gotham-like town that has no water. A big conglomerate that has taken over all the public bathrooms is running it. You have to pay them so you can pee.

"'Urinetown' revolves around the lives of poor people who can't afford to pay for the use of the bathrooms."

The show will run every Friday, Saturday and Sunday of December, from Dec. 5 to 21, at the RCBC Auditorium in Makati City. Book and lyrics are by Greg Kotis, with music by Mark Hollman.

Jett Pangan, The Dawn vocalist who stunned audiences with his lead role in Garcia's version of "Tick, Tick . . . Boom," plays the lead. Also in the "Urinetown" cast are Michael de Mesa, Jinky Llamanzares, Cathy Azansa and Noel Rayos.

"Atlantis is very lucky to have been given the rights to do 'Urinetown' here," says the director. "It opened in New York just a year and a half ago. Normally, they allow the staging of a show in places other than Broadway after six or seven years."

He explains that this is because the American handlers of "Urinetown" are the same people who brought to Manila "Rent" in 1999 and "Proof" in 2001. Garcia directed both.

Garcia says there are several other musicals he wishes he could direct, like the John Kender-Fred Ebb-Bob Fosse classic "Chicago."

"I saw the movie, *ang galing galing na, eh*," he says and admits, "Anything I do would be inferior to what's already there. I have no new concept or idea to add. Maybe there's another director who thinks he can still improve on it."

Garcia the director is very strict about discipline and punctuality. "I always tell my actors that if the rehearsal is between 1 and 6 p.m., we will not start at 2 and end at 7," he shares. "This is why they can make plans for the rest of the day because they know that we will end at 6, but they have to respect the 1 p.m. call time."

He says he is not the type who gets all nervous and stressed out on the eve of a show's opening. "Because I know that I have done the best I could," he says. "Even if it doesn't work, I know that I've done my best."

He says listening to chill-out music and lighting his aromatherapy candles at home helps a lot in calming his nerves.

"I'm big on scents and smell," he says. "When I get home, I turn on the CD player and light my candles right away. It's so calming. The whole house is on incense. My favorite scent is lavender."

Garcia keeps his incense and candles in one of the drawers of his custom-made closets. His T-shirts, underwear, shorts and towels are neatly folded and tucked in the closet nearest to the bathroom.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Incense and candles. "What's funny is that because all my friends know that I'm really hooked on these, these are what they give me as Christmas or birthday gifts. But the lavender scent that I really like, I buy from Body Shop. Incense can be bought at candle stores."

Compact discs. "I have a lot of OPM CDs. I also like listening to relaxing sounds so I have all these sounds like 'Souls of Nature,' 'Natural Relaxation,' but I'm not into meditation.

"Right now, I like listening to John Mayer, Michael Bublé, Rod Stewart, Josh Groban and my show, Urinetown."

"If there's one thing I spend on the most, its CDs *talaga*. What you see are not all mine because a lot of my CDs are in my Atlantis office. I think I have about 500 CDs. I have all the musicals because that's my work, and I have CDs ranging from John Mayer to Kyle Minogue and Madonna."

Souvenir programs and playbills. "I keep the souvenir programs of all the shows I've watched. I like this one from the 'Flower Drum Song' because it has Lea Salonga's name and picture."

Casual shirts. "My work does not require me to wear anything but casual clothes, so T-shirts galore *talaga*, like this red one from 'Miss Saigon.' This is Mimi's. It says, 'Will you light my candle.' This is one of my favorites. I've had this since 1997. It brings back a lot of memories.

"For everyday shirts, I go for comfort. If I'm not in a taping, I'm in a rehearsal hall most of the day. I just want to get as comfortable as possible."

Shirts. "This blue polo shirt from Banana Republic is one of my favorites. It's linen. *Hindi madaling magusot*. I bought this in the States a couple of years ago.

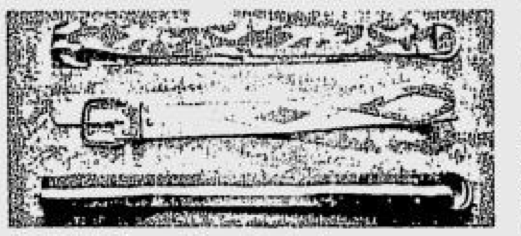
"I also have a couple of Zarahs. This is a very cheap brand in Spain, the counterpart of Gap in the US. I can wear them anywhere with anything and they still look formal even if they are actually casual. I match them with jeans, too. I normally wear jeans even when I go out at night."

Formal shirts. "I don't own a tuxedo. What I have are a couple of Chinese-collar Shanghai Tang silk tops. They look like Mao suits. I bought them in Singapore in 2001 when I was doing 'Rent' there. I wore the blue one to ABS-CBN's 50th anniversary extravaganza."

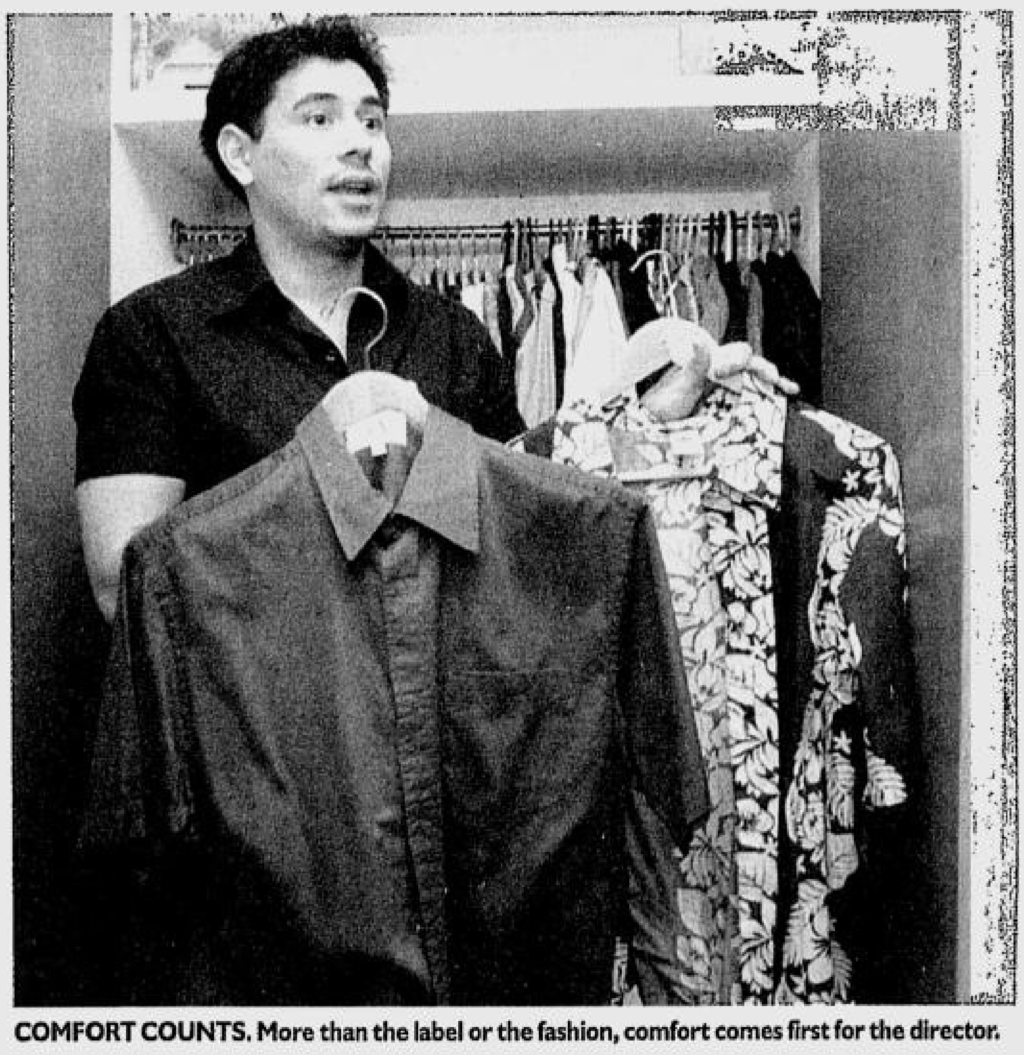
Shorts. "I'm not too particular about the length of my shorts. But I like blue and khaki because they match anything. I can just pick a shirt and I know it would look good with my shorts. I don't spend much time fixing myself up.

ENTER/ C6

WELL-TRAVELED diving gear has been used in Bohol, Anilao, Boracay.



BIG GAP. He only has Gap belts.



COMFORT COUNTS. More than the label or the fashion, comfort comes first for the director.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC
PLAYBILL
PLAYBILL
Bernadette Peters
ANNIE GET YOUR GUN
hairspray

A HEAD FOR THEATER. He collects a lot of caps, playbills, scented candles and soothing sounds. "I forgot how much I paid for them but I'm pretty sure they were all on sale," he says. "The first thing I do when I go to Gap is go to the sale rack."

Lou Diamond Phillips shows the way

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE ARTICLE we ran about **Lou Diamond Phillips** in last Oct. 25's Saturday Special section got a lot of feedback from readers. They congratulated the Fil-American actor for going out of his way to use his clout with the US media to plug for increased benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II who fought with the US Army.

They also appreciated the fact that Phillips was fulfilling his promise to make a Hollywood movie about Filipinos. His movie, in which he will play a Fil-Am singer in search of his roots, is projected to start filming next January.

The hope is that other Fil-American or Filipino celebrities learn from Lou Diamond Phillips' sterling example and also use their popularity to support deserving causes. As Phillips has proven, one star can do a lot, if he puts his heart into it.

The wonder is that it's Phillips who's so active. He's busier than most Fil-Am stars, but he's made time for the Filipino causes he's chosen to champion. Celebrities who are less busy should be able to do even more.

Why don't they? Because it isn't personally important to them. Phillips' edge is the fact that he's made his Filipino causes deserving of his personal attention and commitment.

We trust that his efforts soon bear good fruit, and that Filipino veterans will get the backpay and recognition they've been fighting for all these decades.

And we hope that, when Phillips finishes his movie, it'll turn out to be a very good film, and will be avidly supported by Filipino moviegoers everywhere.

Boob-tube booboos

HOST: How can we keep our communities safe during these times of criminality and terrorism?

Guest: We have to keep our eyes open, especially at night. We should form groups to patrol our streets, even in well-lighted subdivisions, and watch out for suspected-looking individuals!

(What in the world are suspected-looking individuals?!)

***

Host: What attractions are you offering at your resort to make it different from other places for tourists?

Guest: Our theme is going back to tradition, so we have nostalgic things like the horse-pulling carriage, the *calesa*.

(The carriage is pulling the horse? That's a switch!)

***

Host: Were you nervous when you acted in your first movie?

Guest: Of course! Being a newcomer, that's but natural. *Pero yung kaba ko, inilagay ko na lang sa expression sa mukha ko*!

(Ah, so you belong to the "*kabadong* facial expression" school of acting!)

***

Host: Do you think you're better than other starlets who are also making their bid for stardom this year?

Guest: *Ayokong sabihing mas magaling ako—pero mas magaling talaga ako*!

(Make up your mind!)

***

Host: Will you do the honors to introduce our next visitor to the show? After all, you really know him well.

Co-host: Gladly, I'll do it:

Mga kaibigan, all together now, let's welcome to our next guest!

(*Huwag na lang kaya, bigla kaming nawalan ng gana* . . .)

***

Host: Why is (name of official) being investigated by your office?

Guest: For failure to submit the customary statements of asses and liabilities required!

(*Ay*, asses and liabilities!)

***

Host: *O*, tell them *naman* the rules of our exciting new contest on the show.

Co-host: Ok! First, Africans will be judged by a definite set of criteria!

(Africans? What Africans? Oh, *applicants*!)

***

Host: How do you think were you able to win the beauty contest?

Guest: Surely, with the skills and talents that God has given it to me!

(*Sayang, may nakalusot pang* "it"!)

***

Host: What do we need to do to become healthy and live a long, happy life?

Guest: Many things, all coordinated. But, if you want the most important, to become truly healthy, you have to discipline your food intake and eat property!

(Property? You mean buildings, real estate? Oh, properly!)

Streisand sells clothes in yearlong auction on E-bay

LOS ANGELES—People—people who need pantsuits—are about to become the luckiest people in the world.

Entertainer Barbra Streisand is auctioning off hundreds of her outfits and items of personal memorabilia for the first time to benefit charities close to her heart.

The initial item for sale on E-bay will be one of Streisand's most recognizable outfits—the Arnold Scaasi-designed two-piece evening pantsuit she wore in 1969 to collect her best actress Oscar for "Funny Girl."

The pantsuit will carry a reserve price of $1,000.

The Internet auction, starting on Friday, will offer famous items from her wardrobe and other effects.

It will last for at least a year, giving what organizers say is a rare opportunity for fans to buy into one of the world's most collectible celebrities.

Auctions in the 1990s by the singer-actress of some of her furniture and art established record prices, but Streisand, 61, has never before sold off her personal items.

"While we have conducted other celebrity auctions, we have observed that the greatest market demand has been for Barbra Streisand materials and personal effects, and these have never before become available for auction," said Darren Julien, whose JulienEntertainment.com is producing the auction.

A new Streisand item will be put up for auction every day, and will be available for bidding for 10 days. Each item will come with a certificate of authenticity.

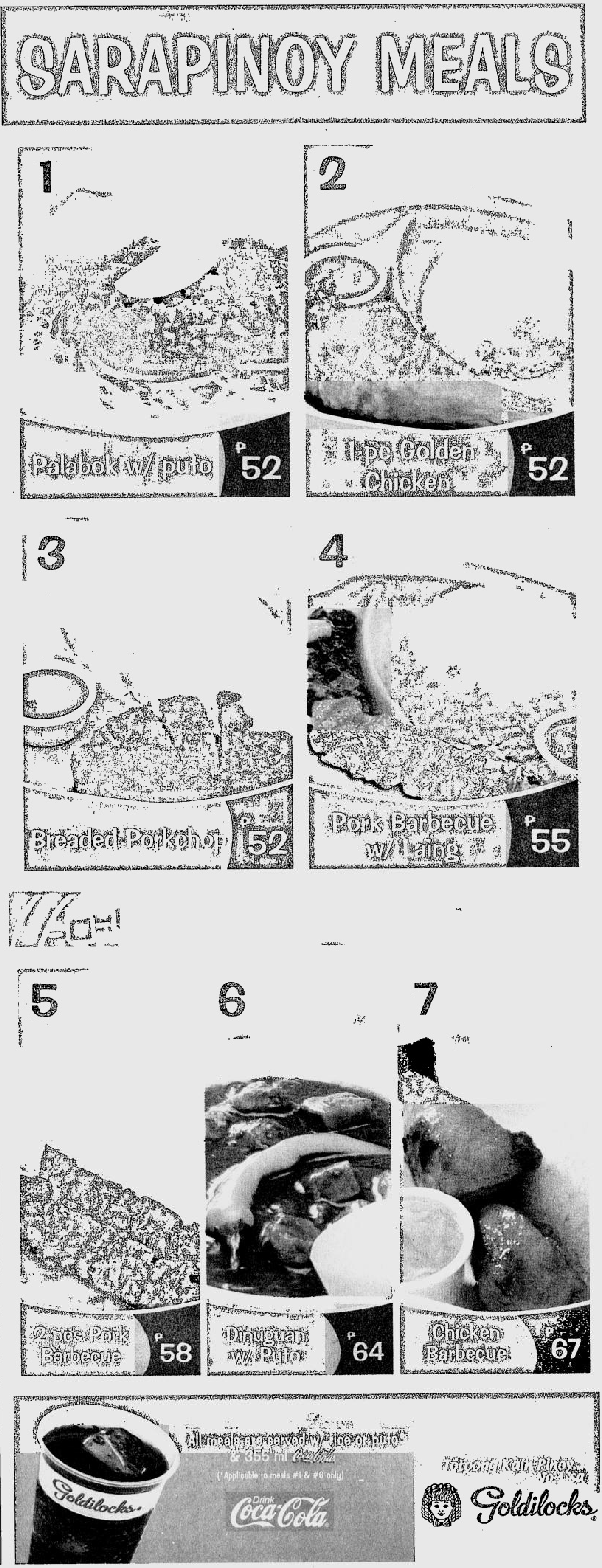
The sale will last at least a year and could be extended to three years.

Julien said other items would include one of Streisand's costumes from the 1974 movie "For Pete's Sake" and the hat she wore from the 1970 movie "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever."

Proceeds from the auction will benefit charities and causes served by the Streisand Foundation, including the Breast Cancer Coalition Fund, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, which works for gay and lesbian rights.

Streisand's spokesperson said the auction was motivated entirely by the singer's desire to raise money for her favorite causes. "There are a lot of causes she wants to help and this is a good way to do it," said Dick Guttman.

Streisand bid farewell to her sell-out career as a public performer in September 2000 but released her 58th album, "The Movie Album," earlier this month. *Reuters*



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6 THE PHONE
7 THE SPY
8 IDENTITY

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2 MATCHSTICKMEN
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
5 BUGBOG SARADO
6 UNDERWORLD
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE
8 MY FIRST ROMANCE

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 MAPUPULANG LABI
2 THE SPY
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 THE PHONE
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE
7 BELPHEGOR
8 IDENTITY

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1 THE RUNDOWN
2 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
3 PILYA
4 UTANG NG AMA
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 THE RUNDOWN

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3 MY FISRT ROMANCE
4 THE RUNDOWN

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Nov. 28

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9 MY FISRT ROMANCE
10 UTANG NG AMA

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3 THE RUNDOWN
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7 MY FIRST ROMANCE
8 THE SPY
9 UPTOWN GIRLS
10 MAPUPULANG LABI

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1 BELPHEGOR
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
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8 MY FIRST ROMANCE
9 THE PHONE
10 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
11 UNDERWORLD
12 MAPUPULANG LABI

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11 MY FIRST ROMANCE
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2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 MAPUPULANG LABI
4 UTANG NG AMA

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2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6 UNDERWORLD
7 RESERVED
8 BUGBOG SARADO

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1 IDENTITY
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 UPTOWN GIRLS
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6 UNDERWORLD
7 MAPUPULANG LABI
8 THE SPY
9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
10 BELPHEGOR
11 THE PHONE
12 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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1 THE SPY
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2 THE RUNDOWN
11:00 FS/11:10 MF/1:00/3:00/5:05/7:00/9:00 /10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

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4 THE PHONE 12:05MF,2:15,4:20,6:30,9:00LMF-10:40END
2 THE SPY 10:20MF,12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00LMF-11:40END
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE 11:50MF,2:20,4:50,7:20,9:50LMF-11:45END
3 UPTOWN GIRLS 12:05MF,2:15,4:20,6:30,9:00LMF-10:40END
6 IDENTITY 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
7 MAPUPULANG LABI 10:30,12:45, 3:00, 5:15,7:30,9:55,11:45
9 FREAKY FRIDAY 11:10,1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00,11:45
8 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING 11:00,1:10,3:20,5:30, 7:40,9:50, 11:30
10 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 11:25,1:30,3:35, 5:40,7:45,9:50,11:25

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2 THE RUNDOWN 10:10,12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50,11:35
3 UPTOWN GIRLS 11:05,12:55,2:45,4:35,6:25,8:15,10:00,11:30
4 THE PHONE 11:05MF,12:55,2:45,4:35,6:25,8:15,10:00LMF,11:40END
5 MAPUPULANG LABI 10:30,12:45,3:00,5:15,7:30,9:45,11:20
6 IDENTITY 11:15,1:20,3:25,5:30,7:35,9:40, 11:10
7 THE SPY 10:30,12:45,3:00,5:15,7:30,9:45, 11:20

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2 THE SPY
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 UPTOWN GIRLS
5 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
7 IDENTITY
8 MAPUPULANG LABI

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2 IDENTITY
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 THE RUNDOWN

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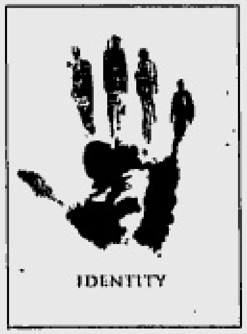

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MY FIRST ROMANCE GP 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER R13 12:00,1:45, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00	IDENTITY R18 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20

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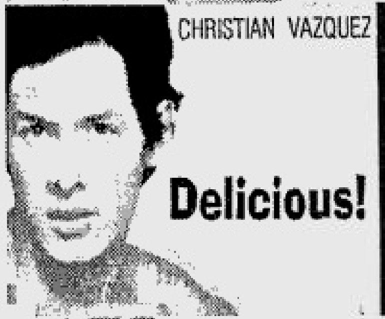

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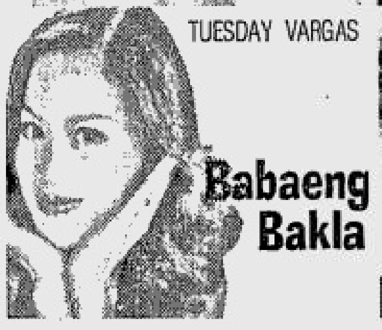

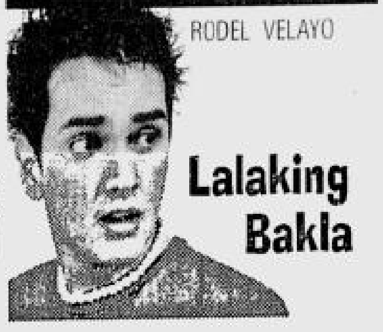

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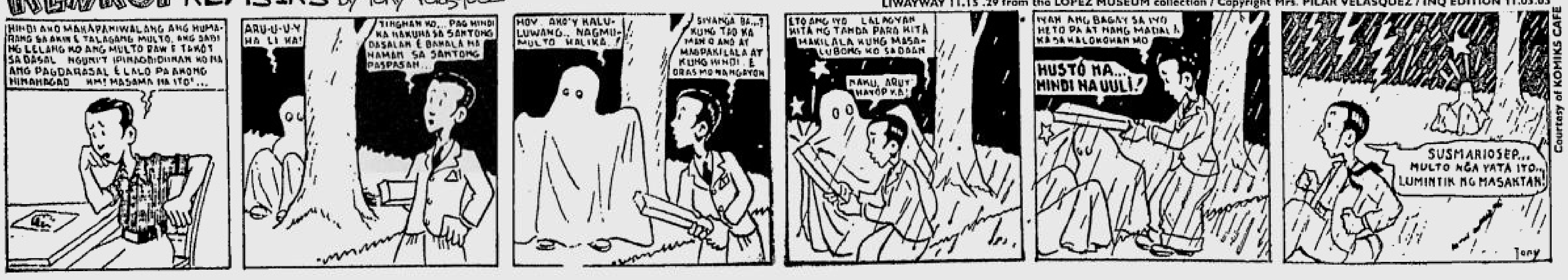

HINDI AKO MAKAPANIWALANG ANG HUMARANG SA AKIN E TALAGANG MULTO, ANG SABI NG LELANG KO ANG MULTO RAW E TAKOT SA DASAL NGUNIT IPINAGBIBUHAN KO NA ANG PAGDARASAL E LALO PA AKONG HINAHABOL HM! MASAMA NA ITO!...
ARU-U-U-Y HA LI KA!
TINGNAN KO... PAG HINDI KA NAKUHA SA SANTONG DASALAN E BABALA KA NAMAN SA SANTONG PASPASAN...
HOY, AKO'Y KALULUWANG.. NAGMUMULTO HALIKA..!
SIYANGA BA...? KUNG TAO KA MAN O AKO AT MAGPAKILALA AT KUNG HINDI E ORAS MO NA NGAYON
ETO ANG IYO LALAGYAN KITA NG TANDA PARA KITA MAKILALA KUNG MASALUBONG KO SA DAAN
NAKU, ARUY HAYOP KA!
IYAN ANG BAGAY SA IYO HETO PA AT NANG MATIAL A KA SA KALOKOHAN MO
HUSTÓ NA... HINDI NA UULI!
SUSMARIOSEP... MULTO NGA YATA ITO.. LUMINTIK NG MASAKTAN!
Tony

Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE

SHOW TIME

Mariah returns to Asia

WHEN American pop diva Mariah Carey performs her first concert in Manila on Nov. 16 at The Fort open field, in Taguig City, she will be returning to Asia.

In 1995, Mariah performed in Tokyo for the Asian leg of her world tour "Daydream."

"I'll never forget the enormity of the venue from my perspective on that stage," Mariah recalled. The goosebumps came "as I looked out to the audience for the first time. I really love performing in Japan."

Mariah's 13-year, platinum singing career includes many awards and accolades, hit songs, albums, concerts and music videos. Her first single, "Vision of Love," won for the then-newcomer two Grammys, for best new artist and best female pop vocal performance.

Mariah was ecstatic the first time she heard her first song on the radio. "My friend and I were in a car and we both ended up screaming and calling people on the phone," she recalled.

She recreated the momentous scene in her semi-autobiographical debut movie "Glitter."

Another turning point was when she made her debut as music video director for the 1995 album "Fantasy." Her follow-up, "Daydream," also zoomed straight to the top, debuting at No. 1.

Another memorable moment came when "One Sweet Day", her collaboration with another recent Manila visitor, Boys II Men, made history as the pop song that spent 16 weeks, the biggest number of weeks, on the top slot.

But her all-time favorite is "Butterfly," her 1997 album, which signified her metamorphosis into a liberated woman in charge of both her life and career.

She remembers the album's grand launch at Tower Records in New York.

"That was really a special day for me. "Even though my personal life was changing dramatically, 'Butterfly' was really close to my heart and I was genuinely excited about the release."

In 1999, she received the Artist of the Decade award from Billboard magazine.

A favorite onstage moment was her homecoming concert, which was recorded and broadcast as a TV special in 1999.

"It was totally bizarre to be performing in my junior high school," she said. "But it gave me a great sense of coming full circle."

CAREY'S CATHARSIS. Tempests and tribulations marked Mariah's public and private lives.

Her latest CD, "Charmbracelet," is also a sentimental favorite because it was released after a slew of tempests and tribulations in both her public and private lives.

Mariah now calls the experience "cathartic."

Her father, with whom she had just reconciled and had grown close to, died unexpectedly. "That is why there is a lot of emotion on this album. There's a song I wrote for him on it."

The album title is largely symbolic for Mariah.

"Charm bracelets have always had a personal and sentimental significance for me," she explained. "Charms are like pieces of yourself that you pass on to other people, items that tell your story and that can be shared. Like a song."

The Manila stop of Mariah's "Charmbracelet World Tour 2003" is presented by Globe's G Plan Opti Sim, Petron Blaze and Tommy Hilfiger Watches, in cooperation with No Curfew, the official Tommy Hilfiger Watch Store "Take Your Time" and GMA Network.

Tickets to "Mariah Live in Concert: The Charmbracelet World Tour 2003" are available at Ticketworld, 891-5610 and 634-2160.

Jessa 'reborn and happy

PERFORMING to a packed crowd at Ratsky Morato last Oct. 22 in "Jessa Zaragoza... Reborn," Jessa has come back as a concert artist.

"I am very happy that my medleys of Shirley Bassey, Donna Summer and Toni Braxton songs, plus my hits, were very well applauded," Jessa says. "Of course, I was nervous at first, but knowing that we prepared well, and with the initial warm response of the audience, I easily gained my confidence."

Her guests were Ogie Alcasid, who has just celebrated his 16th anniversary in the business with his own show at the Araneta Coliseum, and Josh Santana, whose current hit single is the Filipino version of "Can't Help Fallin,'" the Meteor Garden opening song.

Jessa, a multi-platinum artist with record-breaking albums and star of the ABS-CBN teleserye "Bituin," sang cuts from "Kahit Ilang Umaga," her latest album from Star Records.

Star Records has just launched her latest single, "Sana Magbuhat Pa ng Una," composed by Tito Cayamanda.

"Jessa... Reborn" was produced by Star Records and DVM Entertainment. Jessa also thanks BUM Equipment, Weighless Center, IFM, Yes FM, Love Radio, WRR, her manager Manny Valera of DVM Entertainment, Star Records and ABS-CBN, "and my husband, Dingdong (Avanzado), who is very supportive, and last but not the least, Jayda, my daughter, who is my inspiration."

ZARAGOZA

DID YOU KNOW...

The women guests of **Annabel Rama** at her birthday party at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas last Thursday complimented her for her lovely and youthful look that night. They also teased her to admit that her glittering necklace and earrings were fake. Annabel insisted that the jewelry was the real McCoy.

Crossover presents Lani again

ON THURSDAY, Nov. 6, Asia's Nightingale, Lani Misalucha, performs soothing and timeless hits in an intimate evening at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental.

Before Lani hit the big time, she was a singer with various bands and also a solo lounge performer. She was the voice behind many commercial jingles and for a time, was considered the "multiplex queen," who duplicated the voices of Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey and Celine Dion.

"My priority is always my family and we enjoy a simple life," says Lani. "My kids were too young then, so I wanted to focus on taking care of them. I was happy with whatever I was earning on the side. Several years later, I received a great opportunity to try my luck in mainstream entertainment. I seriously discussed it with my husband and we decided I would give it a go."

"I am just thankful that it came when my kids were big enough to more or less take care of themselves and when they could already understand the demands of my work," she adds.

Her first major solo concert was "The Crossover Live Tour" in 2001. It filled up the Big Dome and spawned several other major Lani Misalucha concerts.

Catch Lani again at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental on Thursday.

Gerard Salonga is musical director.

Also performing in the show are the quartet The Opera, the R&B group 604, and soulful singer and composer Marielle.

MISALUCHA. Family first

For ticket inquiries, call Crossover (712-9755 or 712-9764), Ticket World (891-5610), or Captain's Bar (750-8888).

"Crossover Presents Lani Misalucha" is presented by Mastercard in cooperation with Cafe Puro Jade Blend and Cocolife.

Stella L thankful for Kris-Joey split

From page C1

Stella said she had brought along her friends, but she and Joey ate at a separate table.

Stella said Joey asked for another date. This time, he wanted to go to her house, where she would cook for him his favorite *tortang talong* and fried *galunggong*, Stella said.

A third date followed last Feb. 3, the night before Stella left for Singapore to work there as a guest relations officer for a month. Their date was in Joey's condominium unit in Essensa at The Fort in Taguig City.

"We kissed (during that date)," Stella admitted. "But when he started kissing me in the neck, I told him 'no.' He asked me why, and I told him I was leaving for Singapore and that I had just met him. I told him to wait for my return. He agreed to wait. And I love him for that, for respecting my wishes.

"We never had sex so I couldn't have given him any sexually transmitted disease," she said.

At the time she was dating Joey, the Parañaque mayor had denied he was having an affair with Kris, she said.

"He told me it was just *chismis* (rumors)," Stella said. "I believed him."

What's going on?

She said that while she was in Singapore, Joey called her all the time on her cell phone. In one of these calls, he told her he would fetch her from the airport when she returned and they would stay together for three days before she went home, Stella said.

"But I arrived two days earlier than scheduled," she said. "That was when I learned that he and Kris were together again. I was turned off. What's going on? He was calling me while I was in Singapore. Once he even told me he was sick and wished that I was by his side. What's this? He just made a fool out of me.

"*Nainis ako* (I got mad) and told a reporter that Joey was courting me."

She said Joey called her and warned her the issue might blow up in their faces, she said.

"I told him then that I was only going to tell the truth," Stella said.

The issue died down, until Kris confessed to Korina on national television last September that she had left Joey after he pointed a gun at her during a fight. Kris also mentioned during the tell-all session that she had been jealous of Stella and Jackie Forster.

Stella has since been enjoying what could be her biggest break in show biz six years after she signed a three-year, 10-picture contract with Viva Films.

Ex a 'nobody'

Stella was introduced as Ingrid Mendoza, her real name, in "Scorpio Nights 2," which starred Joyce Jimenez, and with whom Stella had a kissing scene.

But after "Scorpio Nights 2," Stella didn't make any more movies with Viva.

While waiting out her contract, Stella went to Japan to work in clubs in order to survive and support her 17-year-old daughter.

"Her father was a former model, and he's still a nobody until now," she said. "He went to the States, and three months later, I learned he had a girlfriend there who was pregnant. We ended the relationship over the phone."

'Good actress'

Stella signed up next with another producer for a three-year contract and was relaunched as Stella L.

What followed was a string of bold roles in small movies. But her performance as a lesbian in director Joven Tan's "Biglang-Liko" was noticed by film critic and TV show host Butch Francisco.

"I was surprised because I didn't even know Butch," Stella said. "So, yes, I might even be a good actress."

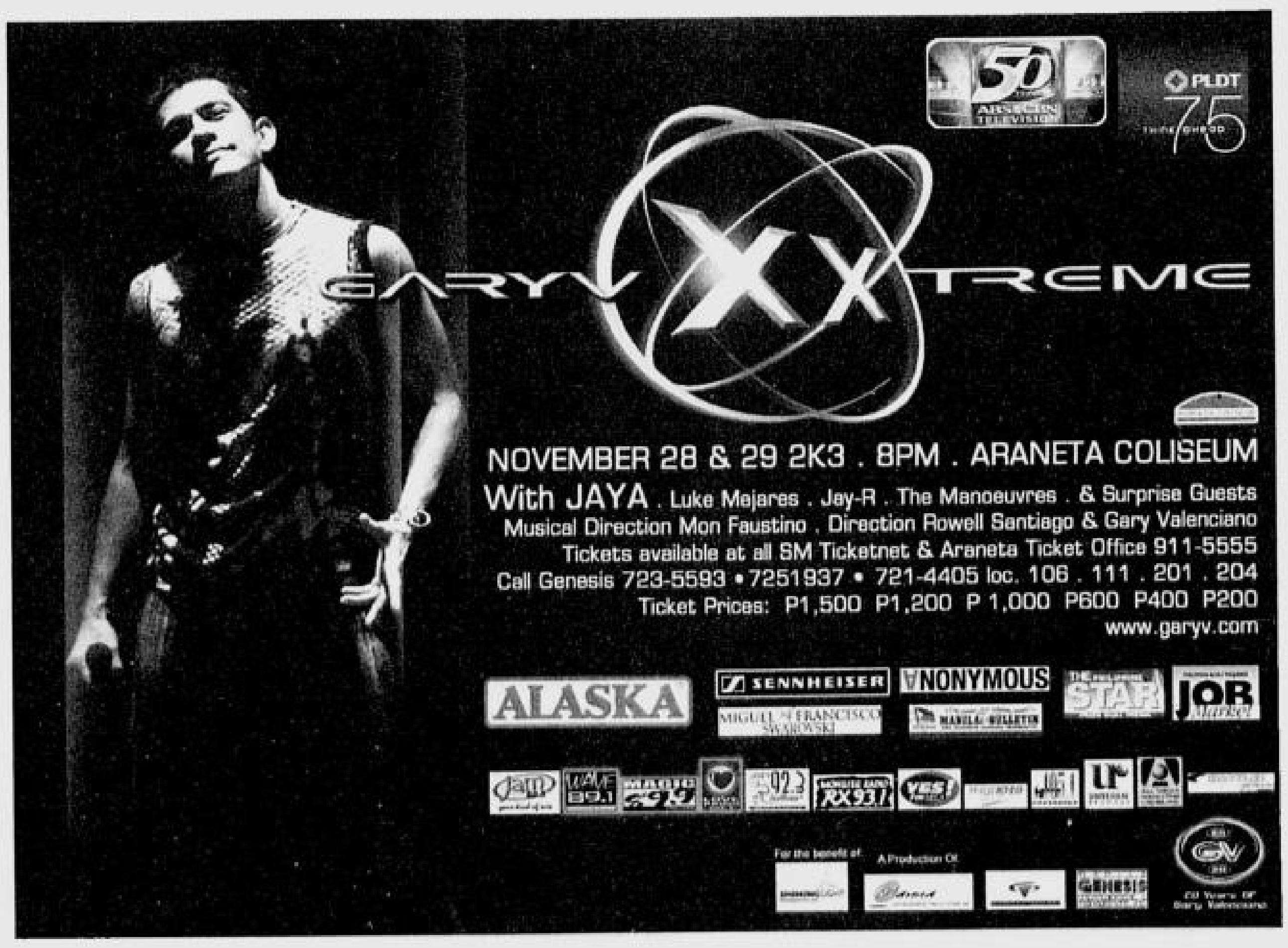
The former flight attendant of Saudi Air is now confident she could make it in the movies.

"I hope my career takes off this time," she said. "I want to be known as a character actress. At my age, I don't think I should be doing bold roles."

She will appear in three movies, one of which casts her as the wife of Eddie Garcia. She is also one of the image models of Ellen's, a chain of skin and body care center. Recently, she had a liposuction treatment at Ellen's to remove belly fat and reduce her waistline from 26 inches to 23.

"I also have so many out of town shows," Stella said proudly.

"I've never had it this good."



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Enter Bobby Garcia —on roller blades

From page C2

Jackets. "This winter jacket has been to winter places all over the US. It really keeps me warm, and it's also super heavy. It has to be dry-cleaned *talaga*. I've worn this in minus-15 degrees New York City and it's really warm. I look like an Eskimo when I'm wearing it, but they say it's not about how you look but how warm you feel.

"I also have show jackets that I use here. I have my 'Miss Saigon' and 'Dreamgirls' jackets. Now and then, when we do a show, we make jackets for the cast."

Pants. "Most of my jeans are from Gap because they fit me really well. I bought one pair for only $12. That's roughly P700.

"I only have a few slacks for going out, mostly in black and gray. The rest are cargo pants and the really, really casual ones."

Caps. "I have a lot. I wear them quite a bit in the day when I'm in a hurry and have no time to fix my hair. A lot are given to me. I bought a red cap recently."

Belts. "I only have Gap belts. When I go to the States, the Gap store is the first one I visit. I immediately liked these belts when I saw them. *Parang pang-maleta ang* material. I liked this brown belt *naman kasi pang*-cowboy *ang dating*. I forgot how much I paid for them but I'm pretty sure they were all on sale. The first thing I do when I go to Gap is go to the sale rack."

Shoes. "I look for comfort and color in shoes. These Nikes have a very interesting story. I bought them in Singapore. These have the design of the first Nike shoes ever made. Nike reissued them in different colors a few years ago and I bought the yellow and orange pair.

"Prestos are my favorite shoes when I'm in a hurry. I like rubber shoes. My work does not call for me to dress up. My feet have to be super comfortable when I'm at work. I go for comfort before anything else. If I can find a pair in a color that I like, then I'm happy.

"I only have two pairs of leather shoes. *Yun lang*."

Boxing gloves. "I'm into kickboxing at Core Fitness with Paolo Villaroel, Carmina's brother. I've been into it for six months now. I go there every week, depending on my schedule."

Roller blades. "These roller blades are from Nike. They cost only about a hundred dollars. They're not that expensive anymore. When I was living abroad, I used to roller-blade everyday. Now, I use them just a few times in villages and activity areas. That's one of the things I miss most about living abroad, having places where you can roller-blade. Our roads here have potholes, *madali kang matutumba*."

Scuba diving gear. "I also scuba dive when I have free time. I just received my diving certificate last April. This gear has been to Bohol, Boracay and Anilao. *Mga 10 dives na siguro*."

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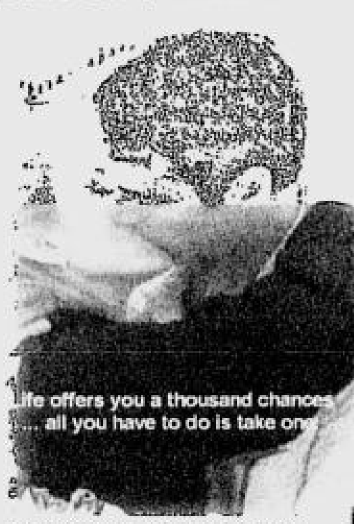
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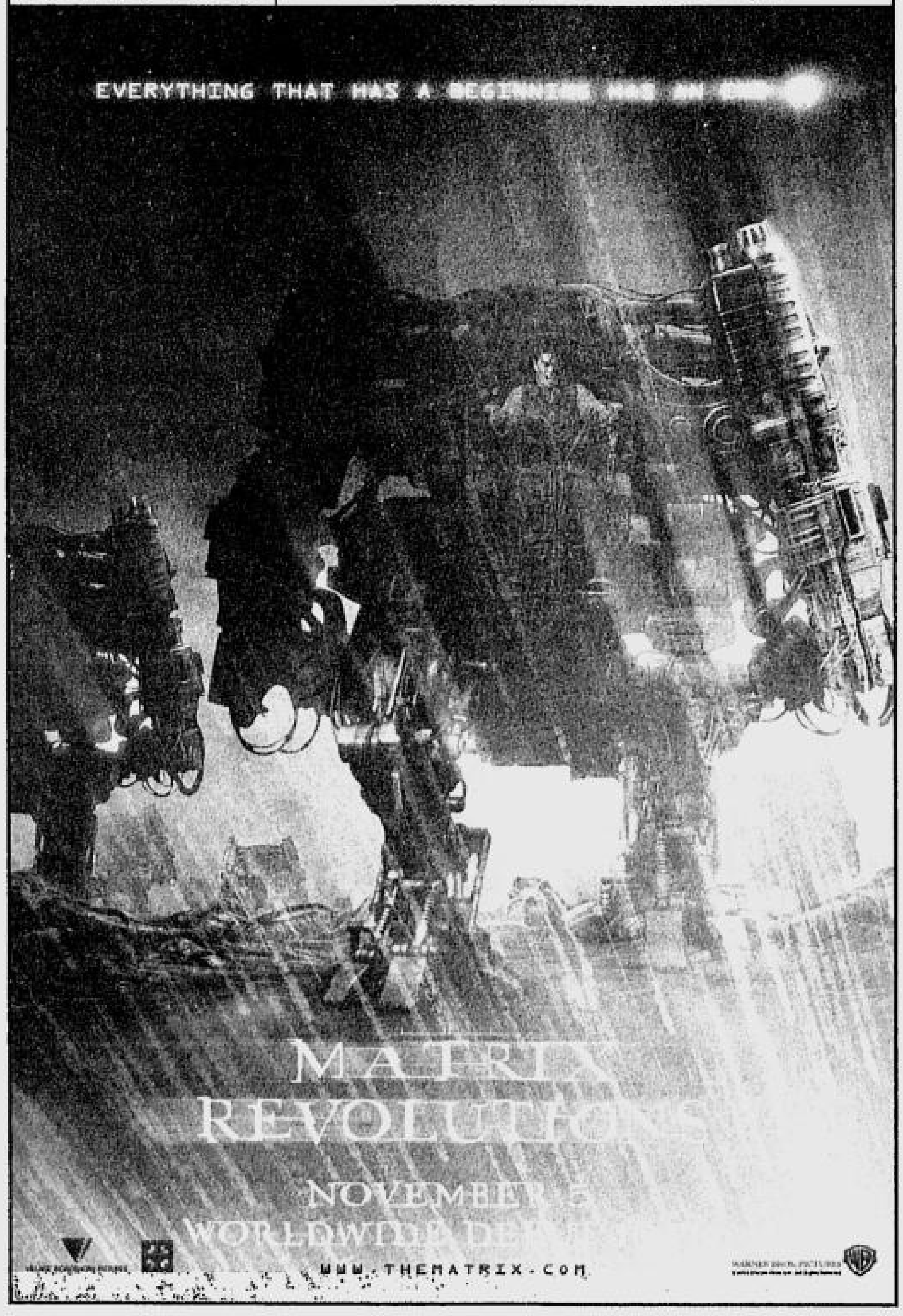

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2 UPTOWN GIRLS	2 IDENTITY	2 UPTOWN GIRLS 1 05, 3 15, 5 25, 7 35, 9 45	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 UPTOWN GIRLS 12 25, 2 35, 4 45, 6 55, 9 05, 11 15	2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 PHONE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 THE RUNDOWN 10, 3 30, 5 50, 8 10, 10 30	Onstage REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29: 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HEAD OF THE STATE 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	3 IDENTITY
4 THE RUNDOWN	4 THE SPY		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE RUNDOWN 2 00, 4 15, 6 30, 8 45, 11 00	4 THE SPY
	5 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 MY FIRST ROMANCE 1 20, 3 40, 6 00, 8 20, 10 40	5 THE RUNDOWN
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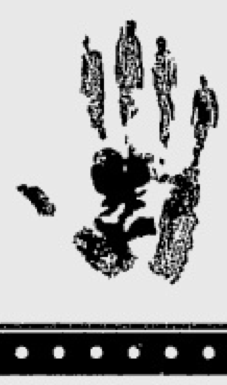

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'Deodorant' story a joke, says Vilma brod-in-law

LIPA CITY—It was a joke, according to former Batangas vice governor Ricky Recto, elder brother of Sen. Ralph Recto.

The ex-vice governor was referring to his earlier statement, quoted in an INQUIRER report published last week, that President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted the senator's wife, actress and Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos, to run for governor of this province to act as "deodorant" for the President's image.

"I just said that as a joke and in passing," said the former vice governor last Friday.

"Although there is some truth to the story, the way it was written made me look bad and *mayabang*," he added.

The INQUIRER wrote the story based on Recto's statement during the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats party held in Tanauan City last Sunday.

The meeting was also attended by members of local and national media, including INQUIRER correspondent Marlon Ramos.

Ramos said he has complete notes and a tape recording of what the ex-vice governor had said.

Ramos said Mayor Alfredo Corona of Tanauan City even laughed when he heard the former vice governor describe "Vilma as deodorant for GMA" in answer to questions in an interview with about 10 media people, who also heard what the former vice governor said.

Recto said that what he meant was that Vilma was the perfect candidate since she would definitely make any candidate with her "look and smell better."

"The story said that having Vilma beside GMA would be a big boost to the President's reelection chances in the 2004 elections. Recto said being associated with Vilma would be "a big boost to anybody's candidacy, in the local or the national level."

"But I am not singling out the President," he stressed. "Everybody wants Vilma's help in the elections. But then again, there is only one percent chance that she's running for governor. The couple is still leaning against it. But the option is always there."

Recto also denied having told the public about the President's persistent appeal for his actress sister-in-law to run under the Lakas-CMD banner.

"And I didn't say it on stage," he said. "It was during a roundtable meeting and I just said that in passing as joke. What I really mean is that Vilma can 'perfume' anybody she's with."

Recto said the term "deodorant" was very unfair to both Vilma and the President.

"The right word is perfume," he said. "Vilma can perfume anybody."

Recto admitted that Vilma and her senator husband—his brother—are now "mad" at him as a result of the "deodorant" story.

"And that's the last thing I want to happen," he said. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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ELIZA DUSHKU
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Valenzuela band puts its best foot forward

IT was a rockin' fight for music supremacy as 10 relatively unknown bands battled it out in the grand finals of the first Converse "Chuck Taylor Battle of the Bands" last Oct. 26.

Rock music fans and shoppers at SM City North Edsa applauded as Apo ni Enteng, a Valenzuela-based group, reigned supreme, thanks to their originality and fresh treatment of classic tunes.

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GRANDPA'S FAVORITES. Grand prize winner Apo ni Enteng band got its name from the members' grandfather.

The Valerio brothers, who make up Apo ni Enteng, could very well be any grandfather's pride. Named after their *Lolo* Vicente, the band is made up of Macky, 25, lead guitar; Lester, 23, bass guitar; and Edward, 21, vocals-drums.

They admitted to being influenced by the Beatles and other European rock bands.

Apo ni Enteng took home the P50,000 cash grand prize plus P50,000 worth of Converse products, a Converse Chuck Taylor trophy, and an all-expenses-paid trip to Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park. The group was also awarded a one-year contract with Viva Records.

Second-place winner Lila proved the color after which they were named isn't wan and dull, after all.

Front man Melvin Feliciano's odes to his US-based girlfriend characterize the band's distinct music. With him are the Hernandez siblings Ian, 21, bass; Lester, 20, drums; and their cousin Bryan Hernandez, 21, lead guitars.

Lila, which bagged P20,000, also won the coveted special award for Best Converse Composition with "Look Who's Wearing Now."

Men Behind Bars took the third berth with their catchy, all-original ditties, including the Chuck Taylor ode, "Mahal." The Muntinlupa band took the P10,000 third prize.

Other finalists were Reborn, Private Parts, Mint, Longstem Bonsai, Watercolor, Milk and Money and Anino ni Juan.

It may seem ironic that a low-key and unpretentious footwear brand like Converse would provide the venue for new bands to shine. But who better to set them on the path to stardom than the footwear long associated with the stalwarts of the international music scene? The legendary Beatles, rock superstars Metallica and Aerosmith, contemporary rock sensations Incubus, Linkin Park and Blink 182—all have been spotted in their mosh-pit best wearing Chuck Taylors. The classic Chucks have also shod ghetto-rap royals like P. Diddy, Nelly, Snoop Dogg and Ja Rule as well as pop-rock princesses Michelle Branch and Avril Lavigne.

With their triumph, Apo ni Enteng, Lila and Men Behind Bars can now also claim to be on equal footing with the Chuck Taylor-wearing league of U2, Guns 'N Roses and Nirvana.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BUGBOG SARADO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MY FIRST ROMANCE
B	MAPUPULANG LABI
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	MAPUPULANG LABI
CINEMA-3	UTANG NG AMA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BELPHEGOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-7	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-8	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	IDENTITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	UPTOWN GIRLS
CINEMA-12	SPY
CINEMA-14	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-15	MY FIRST ROMANCE

LORES

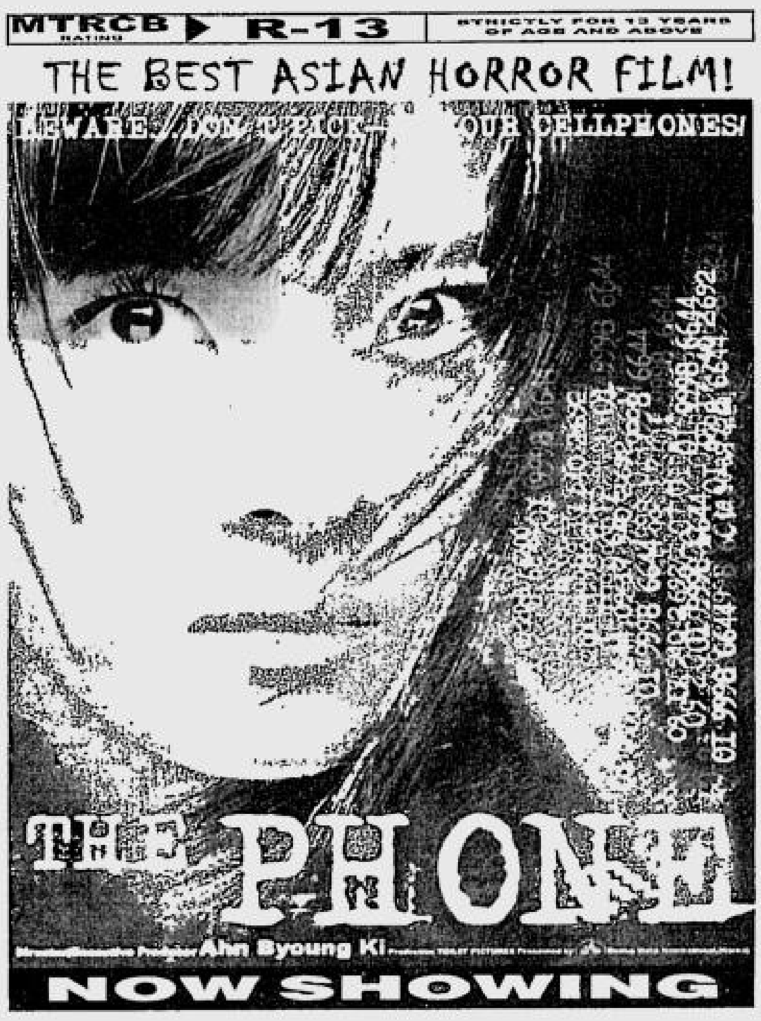
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	INNER SENSES
CINEMA-4	MATCHSTICK MEN

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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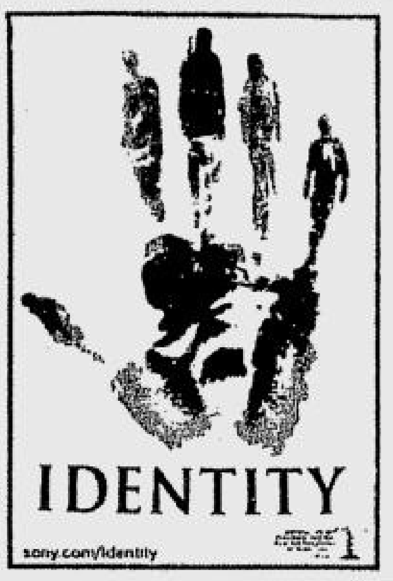

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Relief in finding shelter is quickly replaced with spine-chilling fear as the 10 travelers die, one by one. They soon realize that, if they are to survive, they'll have to uncover the secret that has brought them all together.

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
Ali 2	MAPUPULANG LABI
Ali 3	THE SPY
Ali 4	RUNDOWN
Ali 5	IDENTITY
Ali 6	UPTOWN GIRL
Ali 7	MY FIRST TOMANCE

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NOV 10	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 12	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 14	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 16	PBA GAMES

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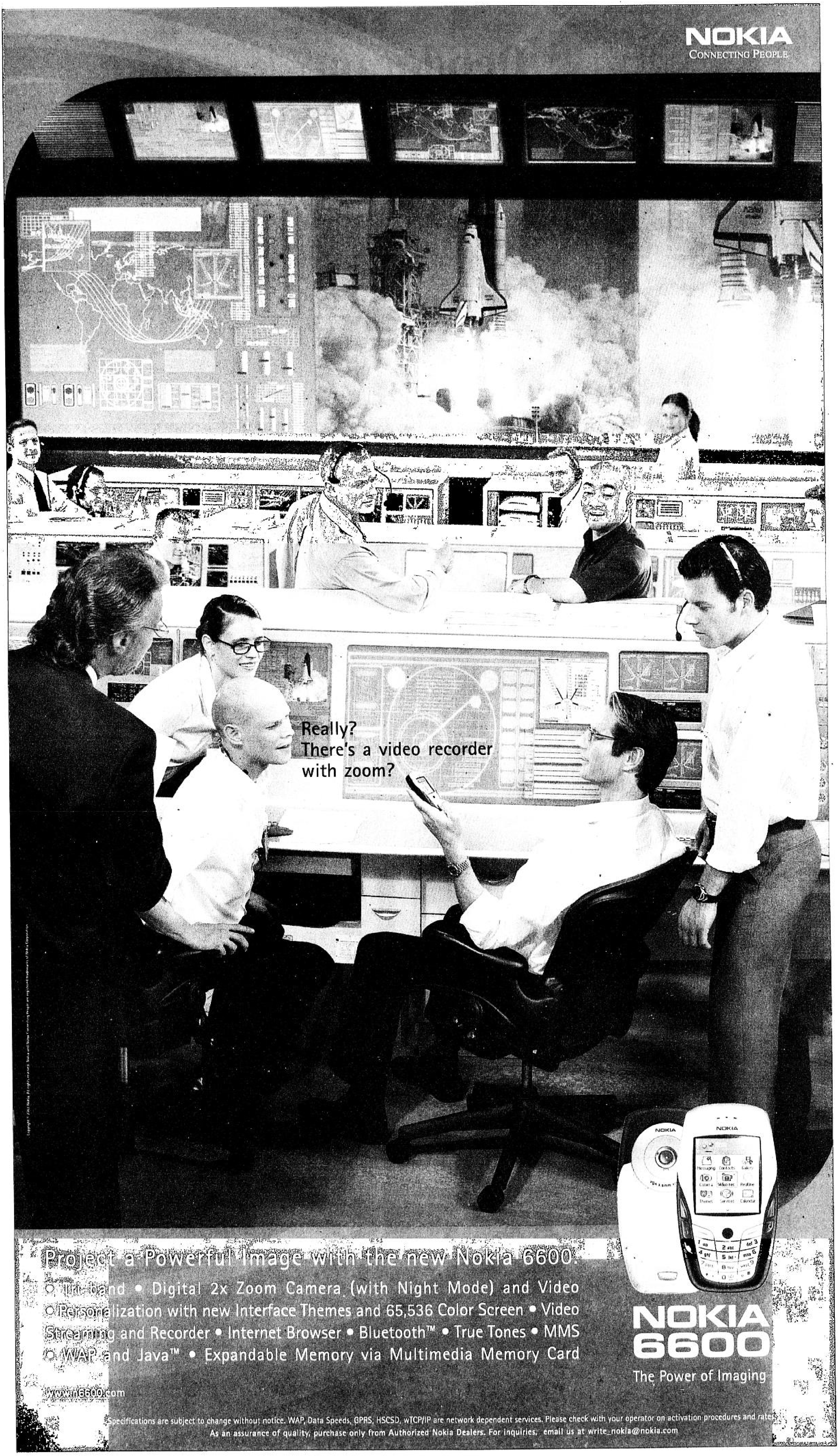
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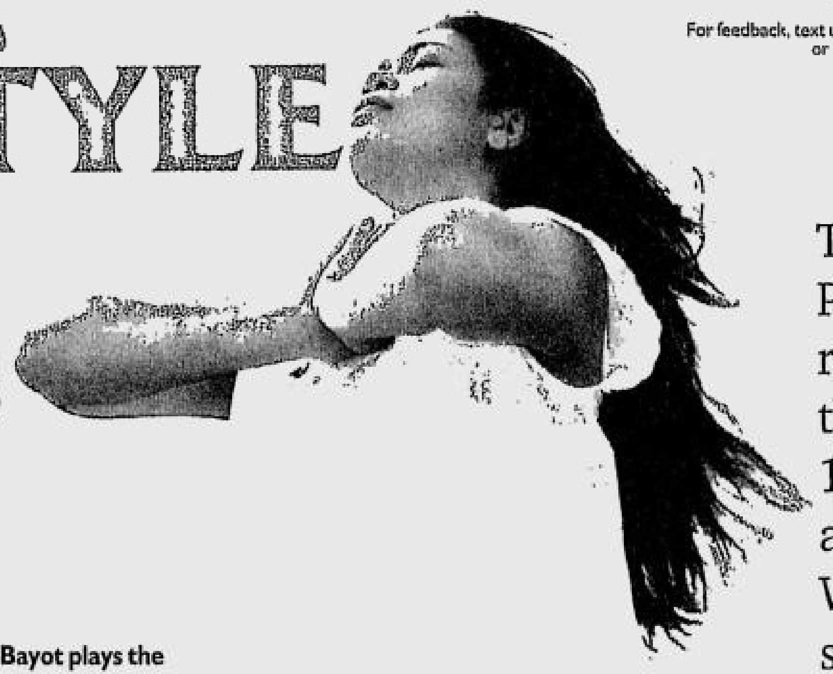
'Himala' gets stage makeover

Tanghalang Pilipino resurrects the controversial 1980s movie as a musical. Will the miracle strike twice?



MAY Bayot plays the pivotal role of Elsa.

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

"BAKIT may himala? Kailangan bang may himala? Bakit nangangailangan ang mga tao ng himala?"

So asks the beleaguered, conflicted filmmaker Orly [Eladio Pamaran] at the end of the titular musical, based on the 1980s classic movie that starred Nora Aunor and was directed by the late master Ishmael Bernal.

The Tanghalang Pilipino [TP] production is being helmed by stage veteran Soxy Topacio and casts relative newcomer May Bayot as the healer-prophetess Elsa. However, Ricky Lee has returned to transform his screenplay into a dramatic script.

Ninety percent of the storyline and theme remains intact, and it might not be a spoiler to narrate the scenes which have embedded in the minds of millions of Filipinos who had seen the award-winning controversial movie.

A lonely outcast, Elsa, in a barren town suffering from famine in the desolate North, claims to have seen visions of the Blessed Mary. She proves her seat to spirituality with scores of healing. Crowds line up, from the desperate poor to the curious cynic, to receive a miracle or secretly renew their faith.

But what rivets the mass's attention is Elsa's promise of better times, if only the people believe.

Then tragedy strikes, causing Elsa to lose her faith and question her mission. Ultimately, she loses her life as well.

But some things change in the translation from film to stage.

Unobtrusive perhaps, but significant. In the original, Elsa stuns her audience—celluloid and real-life alike—by declaring, *"Walang himala! Nasa puso ng tao ang himala!"*

In this stage version, the once skeptical filmmaker who comes to grips with his once-lost humanity begins to understand "that there are some things you can't explain. The supernatural exists," explains Pamaran. "The question at the end then turns to *'Ano ba ang himala?'* Whatever the religion, in every part of the world, a miracle happens, but why does it happen? What is it for? Why do people need a miracle?"

Disturbing

The answers may prove to be more disturbing than the questions, says Bayot, who is filling in Aunor's big shoes. Desperate people hanging on to life and limb will believe anything or take drastic measures just to save themselves.

"To borrow Ricky's words, *'Sa present na sitwasyon, si Elsa ay isang patak ng ulan.'* It had not rained in the town of Cupang for two years. The land was dry. *Kahit anong pagsusumikap, nagugutom ang mga tao. Umaalis na lang ang marami. Iyong iba, kuntento na sa kahirapan nila. Hindi na nila alam kung saan huhugot ng lakas.* Once the apparition happens, and Elsa claims to have seen the Blessed Mother and starts healing, the people cling to her because they think she's close to God.

"During hard times, we are all searching for somebody who is out to save us, whether he be a matinee idol, a politician, a sport hero, a soap opera or a game show. We look for salvation, whether it be financial, political or religious."

Bayot, who honed her craft in TP and Bulwagang Gantimpala productions, was understandably apprehensive at assuming the role that had been identified forever with Aunor.

"Siyempre, natakot ako. How can any actress equal or surpass [what she did]?"

Aunor played Elsa as a silent, mystical, if stubborn visionary. The actress' trademark mixture of suffering and strength was calculated to bring in the audience's sympathy.

Bayot gives her own interpretation: "She may be a provincial lass but she's not stupid. *Hindi mo siya maloloko.* How can anyone who's not intelligent concoct this whole frenzy? The musical shows her development from a religious innocent to a wily person *na may niluluto.*"

Eventually, she became susceptible to all the fawning that came her way. *"Nilamon siya ng atensyon.* She wanted it. You have to remember, *walang nanliligaw sa kanya.* She was an orphan

'HIMALA'/ D3

ISAY Alvarez as the cabaret owner Nimia with Germany-based actor Eladio Pamaran as the filmmaker Orly

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Piano concerto journey completes its 100th performance

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

THE ROMANTIC Piano Concerto Journey of Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes had its 100th performance during the opening of the Fuente de Artes (Fountain of Arts) Piano Museum at the Santamaria residence in Magallanes Village.

The only one in the country, the museum showcases Santamaria's collection of miniature pianos originally housed in the family's ancestral house in Cebu. Noted art patrons Imelda O. Cojuangco, Nenita R. Floirendo, Dr. Vermen M.V. Powell (represented by Chona Montinola), Joanne Andrada, and Don Conrado Escudero, cut the ribbon. An intimate group of friends was first to view the collection in its new location.

The museum is dedicated to Santamaria's parents, the late Salvador Sala, considered a Renaissance man by his daughter, and Pilar Blanco Sala, her first piano teacher; and to Maestro Reynaldo Reyes, her "lifetime mentor."

The collection was transferred to Manila as Santamaria is now based in the city after successfully completing the 10-year task of developing the Cebu Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO), which she started in 1991.

The occasion's musical program opened with an imaginatively arranged eclectic concerto consisting of movements from three well-loved pieces: the first movement of Tchaikovsky's Concerto No. 1 in B Flat Minor, Op. 23; the second movement of Beethoven's Concerto No. 5 in E Flat Major, Op. 73 ("Emperor"); and the last movement of Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 18.

Santamaria prefaced the performance with brief remarks, saying it was done for an intimate group of "sterling friends." It was markedly different from the pair's usual performances all over the country attended by thousands of listeners. Prof. Reyes gave significant notes that made listening easy.

The show opened the new piano museum in the Santamaria residence

REYNALDO Reyes

INGRID Sala Santamaria

Alfredo Mendoza, concert tour manager, said the journey would resume in January 2004. He calls it an "Islands Tour" as the duo will be brought to Marinduque, Mindoro, Palawan, Aklan and Capiz.

Asian choristers

Meanwhile, the Asian Youth Singing Ambassadors (AYSA), a mixed chorus to be composed of young choristers from Asia, was launched recently. The choir is currently composed of 16 members from different churches affiliated with the Manila Broadcasting Network. Eventually it will have 26 members, with the rest coming from other parts of Asia.

Each participating country will conduct its own selection. Andrea O. Veneracion, National Artist for Music and founding choirmaster of the internationally famed Philippine Madrigal Singers, will make the final selection.

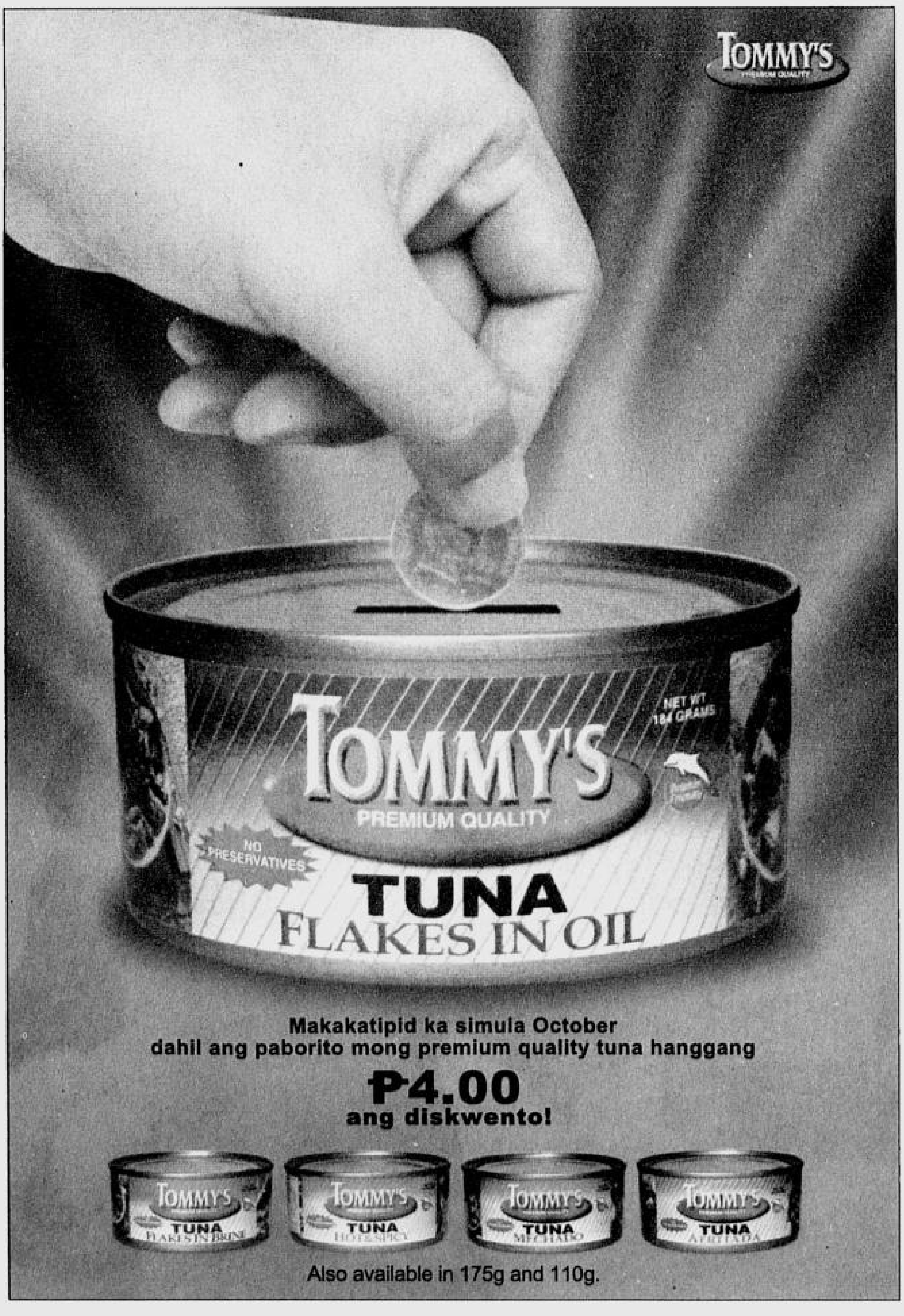
The AYSA, according to Veneracion, aims to reach out to the youth through music and to promote regional unity. The choir was organized only five months ago and still has a long way to go. Members are non-musicians, with only about two having had some choir exposure.

Primarily an apostolate work, Veneracion said the group was disciplined and responded well to instruction. It now had a good grasp of what a good choral sound was. Rehearsals are rigorous, consisting of two sessions of more than two hours each every week.

In support of the project, the Asian Youth Singing Ambassadors Foundation Inc. was set up with Ramon N. Tapales Jr. as president. Veneracion said it was Tapales who tapped her for the job.

The Asian Youth Orchestra (AYO) and the Philippine Madrigal Singers inspired the formation of the AYSA. The launching also served as a fundraiser to finance the conduct of auditions in other parts of Asia.

During the lunch, the choir performed 10 songs consisting of spirituals, religious and madrigal pieces.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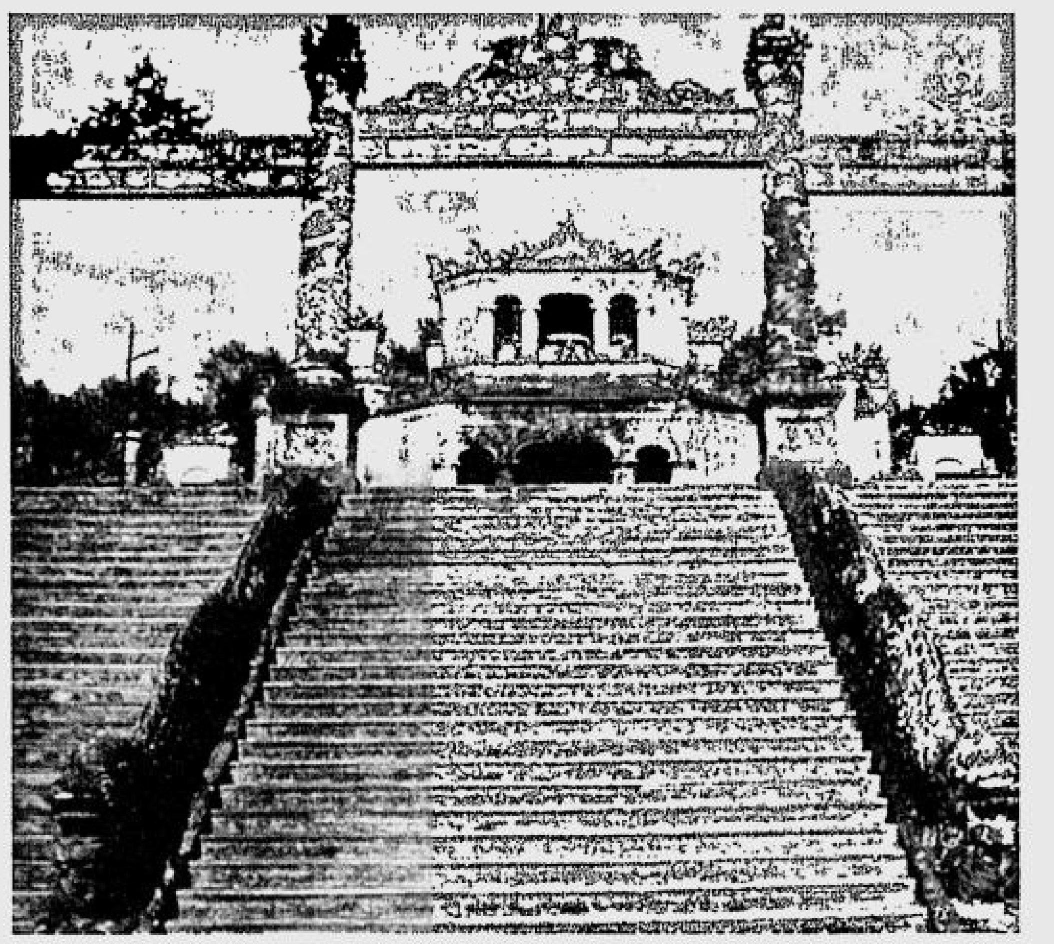

THE IMPERIAL citadel of Hué in Vietnam

A tour of some of humankind's greatest achievements

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

WE live in a diverse, beautiful and continually changing world. Constant geological and climatic movement over millions of years tirelessly shape our planet. The prehistoric collision of the continents raised great mountain ranges, causing climate changes that created great glaciers and also cooled vast tracts of land.

This relentless movement provided our planet with a continually shifting stage that allowed evolution to generate a long line of plants and animals, whose survivors we now see around us. What an amazing assemblage of nature and culture we exist in today.

Some scientists say the forming of our planet took over three million years, making humans relative newcomers. Over the past 10,000 years, they increasingly set their mark on nature, changing the world so that their needs could be met. Forests gave way to farmland and pastures. Certain animal and plant species were domesticated to serve people. First they built settlements, then constructed cities and, later, vast urban areas.

After making quite a mark on the planet, humankind is now paying the consequences for not doing so with more respect. Today we are faced with the task of maintaining the fragile natural and cultural balance to assure the future of our planet. Conservation is not the concern of just a few. It is a global necessity.

Through the World Heritage Convention, Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) strives to maintain the natural ecological balance in the world while assuring the preservation of threatened cultural treasures built by humankind.

Unesco implements the convention, an international law written over 30 years ago and now ratified by over 150 countries. The convention principally guards against the "deterioration or disappearance of the cultural or natural heritage that constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all nations in the world."

The world's leading mechanism for the preservation of natural and cultural patrimony, it sets guidelines and procedures to be followed in the preservation and maintenance of properties inscribed in the World Heritage List.

Through the World Heritage Committee, Unesco maintains constant watch over 750 places all over the world listed as World Heritage sites. These are unique and special sites described in the World Heritage Convention as "parts of the cultural or natural heritage that are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of humankind as a whole."

Sites inscribed in the World Heritage List fall into two principal categories, cultural and natural.

Cultural sites are man-made structures that exhibit the highest artistic achievements of man. Destruction of any of these sites creates an irreplaceable void in the patrimony of humankind. Sites inscribed in the category include the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Wall of China, the Parthenon of Greece and the entire Vatican City in Rome.

Natural sites are places of extreme natural beauty, that show a significant phase in the evolution of the earth, or sites that must be preserved to maintain the world ecological balance. Inscribed in the World Heritage list as natural sites are the Grand Canyon in the United States, the Galápagos Islands in Ecuador, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

Five Philippine sites are inscribed in the World Heritage List. The two natural sites are Tubbataha Reef National Park and Puerto Princesa Underground River, both in Palawan province. Cultural sites are the Baroque Churches of the Philippines (a multiple site of four churches—San Agustin in Intramuros, the churches of Paoay in Ilocos Norte, Sta. Maria in Ilocos Sur and Miag-ao in Iloilo), the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras and the historic town of Vigan. In late 2003, the Philippines is nominating a sixth property, the Batanes Archipelago and the Ivatan Archaeological Landscape for inscription in the World Heritage List.

The Philippine educational system has taught us to look westward rather than toward our neighbors, so sites in Asia remain a mystery to many Filipinos who do not realize the relevance the places have to our own culture.

Thailand has great achievements in preserving its cultural monuments, particularly the ancient city of Sukhothai. In 1978, the Thai government mounted a massive restoration effort and, today, the ancient city is a visual feast of monumental ruins situated among rolling green hills.

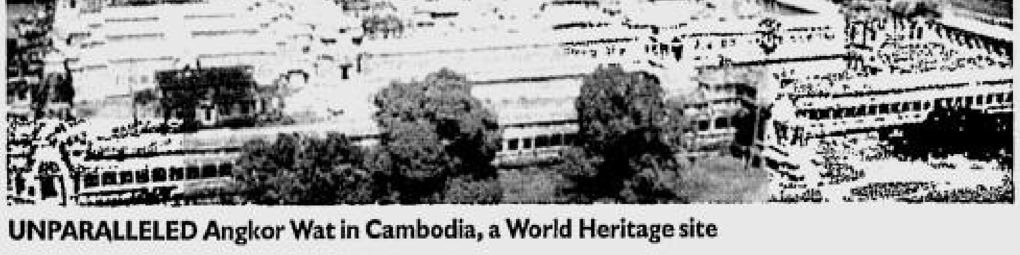
Along the banks of the Perfumed River, the Imperial Citadel of Hué in Vietnam was once the feudal political and cultural center of the country. Among the royal architectural works are the Royal Palace, pagodas, royal tombs and pavilions for government officials.

Without question, the jewel of Asian heritage is the collection of temples in Angkor, lasting monuments to the former greatness of the Khmer empire. Founded in the 9th century, the lost city of Angkor covers almost 200 sq km. Filled with temples, other remnants of the lost civilization are scattered within the broad area, including a massive irrigation system that brought water for residents and to support agriculture.

Experiencing World Heritage places reaffirms the greatness of past civilizations. It also is a reaffirmation that, with proper preservation measures in place, the sites that form the collective patrimony of humankind will survive into the next generation.

G&S Travel and Tours inaugurates a Unesco-sanctioned tour of Asian World Heritage Sites that start from the Philippines. The "Four Kingdoms World Heritage Tour" touches World Heritage sites—the imperial towns of Luang Prabang in Laos and Hué in Vietnam, the trading outpost Hoi An in Vietnam, the temple ruins of Sukhothai in Thailand and the mystical temples of Angkor in Cambodia. Departures are regularly scheduled between November 2003 and March 2004. Contact G&S Travel at 6360895, 6359305 and 6332407.

E-mail the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com.


UNPARALLELED Angkor Wat in Cambodia, a World Heritage site

THE COLLABORATORS of "Himala" the musical: (from left) playwright and lyricist Ricky Lee; composer, musical director and lyricist Vince A. de Jesus; director Soxy Topacio and production designer Gino Gonzalez

THE WOMEN of "Himala:" (from left): Cynthia Culig-Guico as the religious Chayong, Alvarez as the former prostitute Nimia and May Bayot as the healer and visionary Elsa

BONG Embile portrays the role of Ibmeng Bugaw

'Himala' gets stage makeover

From page D1

and an outcast. In my opinion, she could have lost her faith in the Virgin Mary long before the rape, when she had become too proud."

Pretty soon, power games come into play, and the line between manipulator and puppet blurs. A media frenzy pulls prophetess and town people into the exacting glare of the limelight.

As a cult of devotees springs around Elsa, the Church, anxious of losing its flock, arrives to probe, and perhaps stem, the phenomenon.

Design and music

A massive set brings the audience right into the heart of the drama with all its religious underpinnings and enduring sense of desolation.

Designed by Gino Gonzalez, panels reach out to enclose the viewers within the stage of the 200-seater Tanghalang Batute. The bleakness of the town can suffocate and trap, as the later spiritual revival thrusts and shakes it from its stupor.

As the production design's intimacy replaces the panoramic scenes in the movie, Vince de Jesus' music and lyrics voice out the sentiments and thoughts of the crowd and the leading players.

"I eventually came up with themes that are based on the character's emotions. Melodic themes emerge that sing of love, pain, passion, rage, deceit and the whole gamut of emotions that the characters express throughout the musical," says the composer. "I was also very aware of the fact that this musical should have its own distinct sound. Not pop, not Broadway, not *zarzuela*. The songs should breathe life into the characters, weave the emotional thread of the play, underscore the meaning of the text and reinforce the space and the rhythm of the musical."

The music is undeniably somber and passionate, chronicling the twists and turns in the town, from the closing of the last cabaret to the dawn of revelation.

The comic, light numbers are few and far between, like the one that features Elsa being given a quick glamorous make-over worthy of the cameras.

Ultimately, says De Jesus, "Himala" the musical focuses on man's search to believe in something, and the consequences that can result from it. "[People need to] hold on to religion, love or money. It shows how good people—in their search for love, acceptance and happiness—go wrong. How blind faith destroys the most loyal believers. How greed corrodes the soul. How ambition can easily win over love. It's about finding that moment of glory no matter what the cost."

If the search for a miracle exacts that kind of price, it returns us to the original questions: "What are miracles for? Why do we need one? And are they worth the price?"

TP's "Himala The Musical" runs at the CCP from Nov. 7-23. Call 8323661.

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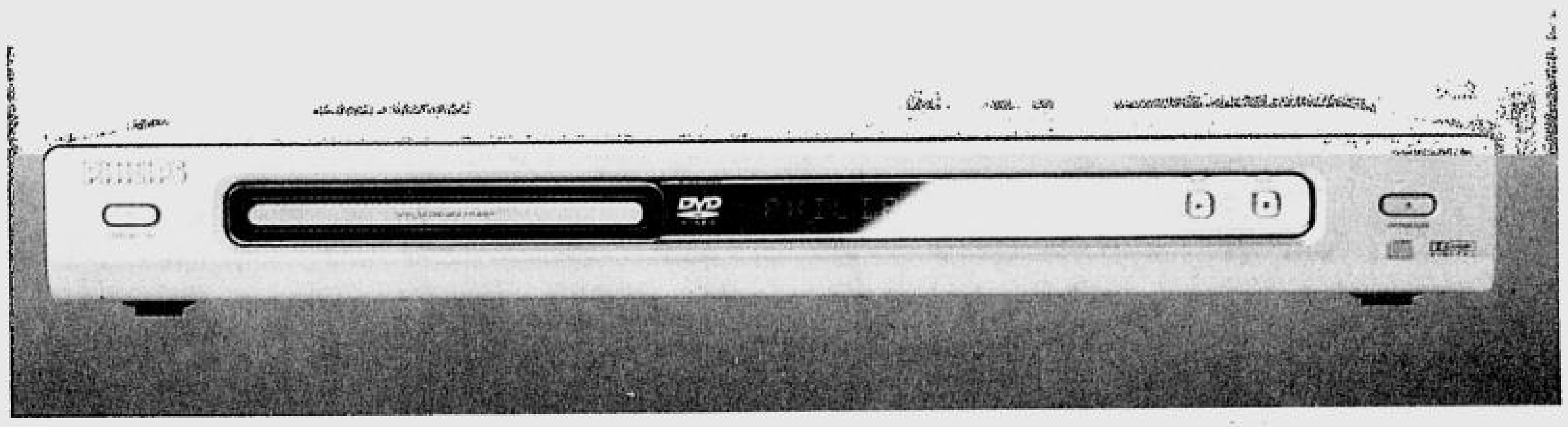

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Mentors of teachers imbibe revolutionary spirit

By Chinit Rufino
Contributor

THE LAST sessions for the year of the Education Revolution in Iloilo City, Oct. 13-18, were held at Racso's in Guimbal. Fifty-five college deans and faculties of five teacher education institutions (TEIs) of Iloilo City met in one hall, and 68 principals, master teachers and school department heads of seven public high schools under the Iloilo City Schools Division in another.

Evelyn Mejillano, national coordinator for the Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP) and a professor at the University of the Philippines College of Education, and I went back and forth between the sessions. We were joined later by Nada Ruiz of Focolare and Dr. Celia Adriano, also a professor in the UP College of Education.

Keynote speakers Dr. Lourdes Arañador, president of West Visayas State University (WVSU), and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) director Dr. Enrique Garcia said there was an urgent need for individuals to contribute to the community's life through gift of self and service. They said education and educators were key to achieving this goal and challenged participants to start the change within themselves.

Represented in one session were WVSU, West Visayas College of Science and Technology (WVCST), University of Iloilo (UI), University of San Jose (USJ), University of San Carlos (USC), and University of San Agustin (USA). Observers were Emelita Salvado, Clarita Cruz and Leoncio Fernandez of the Department of Education Region XI; Edna Javier, Leticia Rocaberte, Fely Sarmiento and Evangeline Balabad of Region I TEI; Sr. Giselle Valderama from Sta. Rita Academy of Sibalom, Antique; and Kate Villaruz of Assumption San Lorenzo.

REPRESENTATIVES of education institutions perform a rap number as part of their creative presentation.

Host-coordinators

Sponsored by the FWWPP, the pilot session for TEIs had WVSU's Dr. Purita Bilbao and Dr. Arañador as host-coordinators.

The meeting of high school principals, master teachers and school department heads was the third sponsored by Iloilo City's Local School Board under the leadership of superintendent Ida Endonila and her team of facilitators, and Mayor Jerry Treñas. All 68 participants, and observers from Couples for Christ and DepEd Davao, were formed into "families." The sessions were enriched with an exchange of experiences and learning.

The five-day meeting discussed character formation, *Kambio sa Panan-aw* (shifting from *akin* to *atin* mentality), Building Relationships, New Teaching Methodologies, Active Learning Methods, Mentoring techniques of leading, guiding and listening, and Systematic Design Integration.

Participants proudly presented their Action Plans and personal commitment to the Education Revolution to Dr. Maria "Butchie" Lim-Ayuyao, FWWPP president, during the culmination activities.

Real test

Now the real test of the impact of the Education Revolution will be in the implementation of the Action Plans.

"IT IS better to light just one little candle... " is sung while each school pledges its commitment to pursue the Mentoring the Mentors program. FWWPP president Dr. Maria Lim Ayuyao looks on.

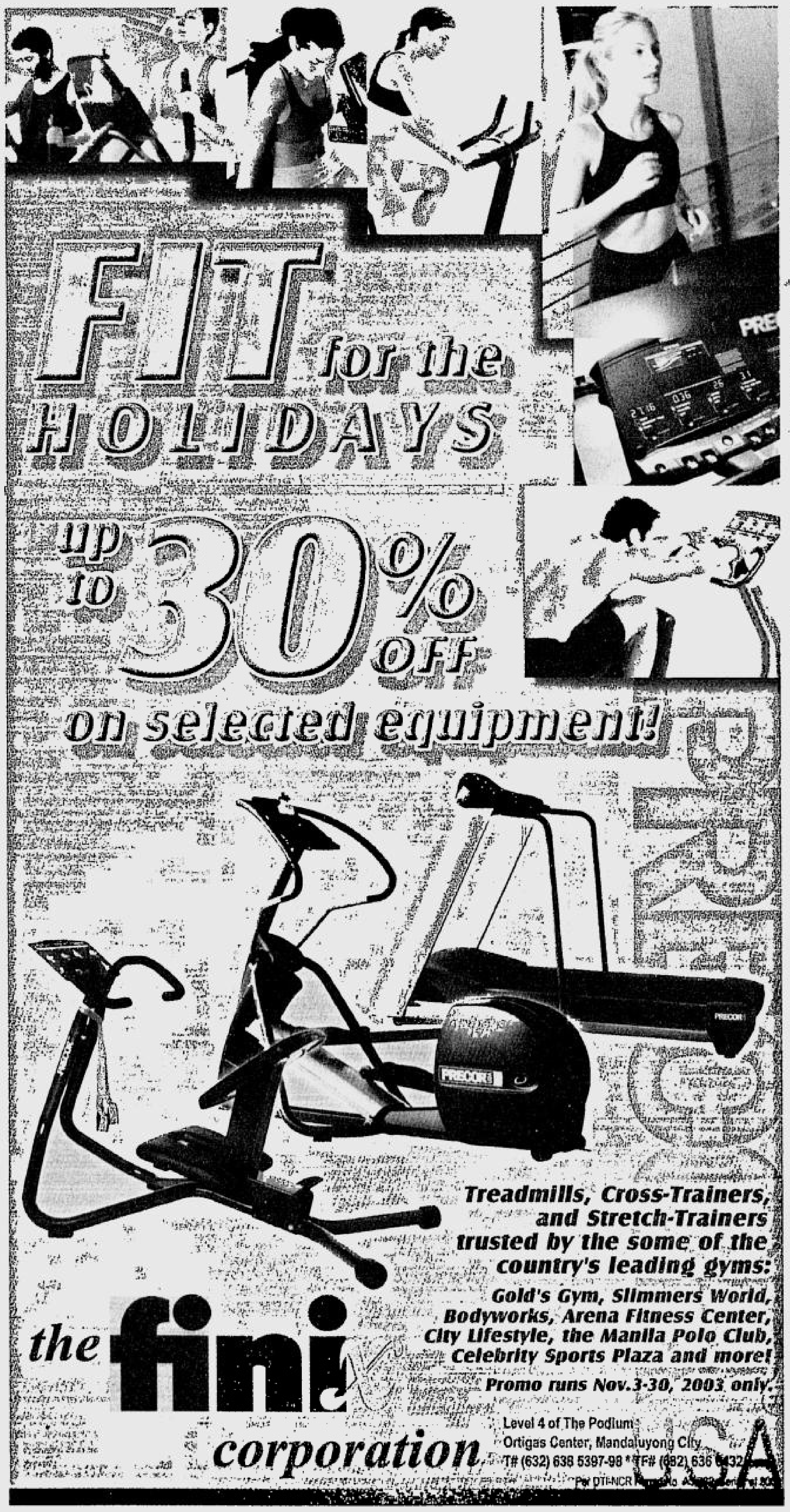
But we have seen how seriously participants take their plans during a visit to the Buntatala Elementary Public School and the Cubay Elementary Public School headed by principals Elenita Java and Judith Anam, respectively. Both principals were among the first participants in the Mentoring the Mentors Program in May. Interviews with teachers showed that the Mentoring program was well in-place in the school.

One teacher said, "Now, it is easy for us to tell each other, 'that's *akin* mentality... *dapat atin* mentality *tayo.*'"

Mentoring the Mentors Program has touched the hearts of 65 public school principals and, through them, their teachers; and representatives from five TEIs of Iloilo City. Armed with a renewed fervor and love for education for social transformation and with FWWPP's support, the prayer song "Heal Our Land" has found a good starting point.

E-mail chinit@i-manila.com.ph

Teacher education institutions attend Mentoring the Mentors session



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CHORAL director professor Fidel Calalang Jr. heads the choir.

UST Singers stage Philamlife concert

THE INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed University of Santo Tomas Singers will hold a concert titled Lend an Ear to the UST Singers on Nov. 7, 7 p.m. at the Philamlife Auditorium.

In line with Rotary International's theme Lend A Hand, Lend an Ear to the UST Singers is a fund-raising project of the Rotary Club of Valenzuela, with its president, Dr. Ferdinand Calalang, under the Rotary International District 3800, headed by the district governor Antonio G. Puyat.

The concert is for the benefit of the Rotary Club of Valenzuela's various community projects in poverty alleviation, housing and literacy.

A decade of performing all over the world has brought glory and pride to the UST Singers, their university and the country. Led by professor Fidel Calalang Jr., the award-winning choral director, the group visited last year 12 European countries and 11 states in the US, winning the top prizes in four international choral competitions.

In the course of 10 years in the international choral music scene, the UST Singers has earned the distinction as one of the best choirs in the world.

It won the Choir of the World title in 1995 in Wales, which made it the first and only Asian choir to date to attain the honor. It has also won more than 40 top prizes in competitions worldwide.

Ticket prices are P700, P500, P300 and P200, available at the Philamlife lobby. Call 5366373 or 0917-9530954.

Evening of faith and music with 'Waray' clergy at Meralco

PRIESTS from the Diocese of Calbayog in Samar present an "Evening of Faith, Music and Laughter" at 7 p.m., Nov. 8, at the Meralco Theater, Pasig City.

For the group's 10th concert, the repertoire includes a medley of Tagalog and Waray folksongs, Broadway and Beatles selection, and religious and inspirational pieces.

While no member is a professional singer or dancer, all the 48 active members of the Calbayog clergy will sing and dance.

The concert aims to help raise funds for the reconstruction of Centennial Pastoral Center, built from the ashes of the old seminary that burned down on April 9, 2001. It is also a way of thanking benefactors and partners of the Calbayog church.

Call 4337544, 0918-9366570; 6317140, 0916-5778261; 4262701 local 6619, 0919-3502072; 8258791, 0916-7167931; 6414707, 0917-3655686.

BISHOP Jose S. Palma of Calbayog City singing in concert to raise funds for his diocese's pastoral center

LIFESTYLE

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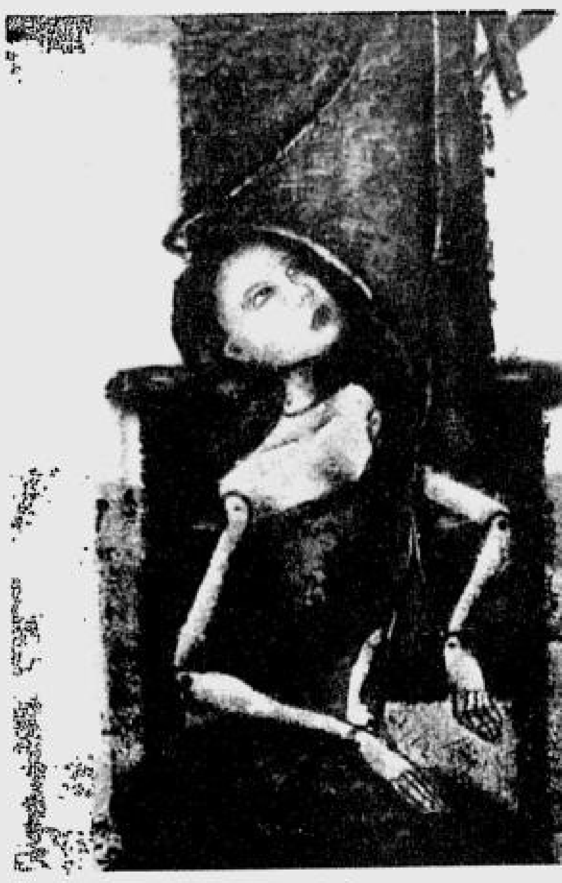
Not so diminutive art

Eight exciting young artists try to break new ground


"SEAT of Power," by Anton Balao

By Lito Zulueta

IS THE art of the young diminutive in vision and application? The tug of war between social realism and conceptual art has polarized the young either in embracing agitprop or interpreting current events in the bland wryness of a conceit. Still others have stuck to the staples of landscapes, figures, still lifes and nudes, ending up in the rut of predictability.

The struggle to get out of the rut is evident in "Eight," the forthcoming show of eight young artists at the University of Santo Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences. Most of the young names have won national art contests and exhibited either individually or jointly, and have thus come to be associated with a "signature style" or "theme," if there's such a thing in nascent talents.

Not that these young artists have become predictable. There's nothing wrong with being predictable if one considers that predictability is consistency and maturity. But theirs is an exploratory talent that continues to probe and discover. Theirs is a critical discernment in lines and colors.

The change is particularly evident in four artists who have exhibited widely and gained collectors this early—the Samonte brothers Jef and Marvin, Anton Balao and Tres Roman.

Jef and Marvin are members of the Samonte clan of artists in Bulacan, and their roots are in the folk arts. Jef paints highly stylized figures of women, angels and feasts along with icons of rusticity such as capiz windows, tropical foliage and magnificent moons, in captivating lambent, nearly dated colors.

But in this show, Jef Samonte tears down the capiz windows to show his less affable side. In "Proteksiyon," the window is broken, and a shard of capiz has the image of a child, while outside hangs a precarious garlic bulb set against the moon, protection against the ghouls and vampires that perpetrate child abuse.

Dreamlike but trenchant

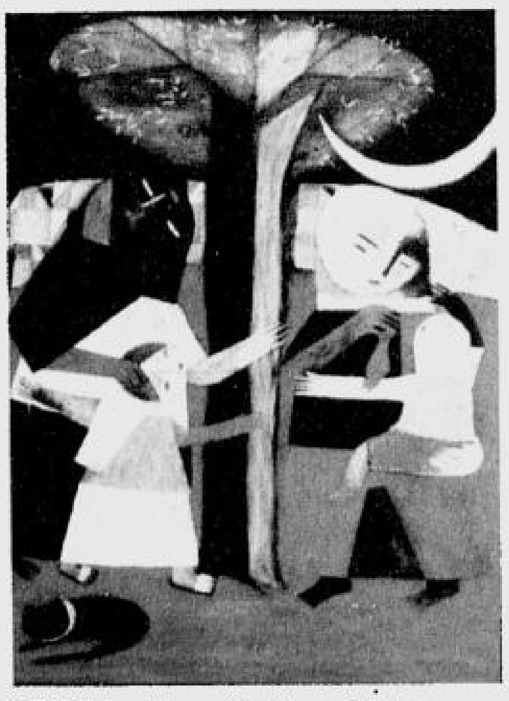
"Kinahong Pangarap" shows Jef's trademark cherubim sitting on the windowsill, gazing at the moon; but her wings are devised from the carton of Hope cigarette, a commentary on postcard dreams and boxed or constricted hopes. The effect is dreamlike like most of Jef's painting, but this time, trenchant and pressing.

Marvin Samonte is the foil to the other Samonte's geniality. He's known for his irreverent wit and he puts that into good use in his take on Filipino folk Catholic practices, particularly Quiapo's Black Nazarene. The humor is mordantly black and quite shocking.

The compositions, too, reveal Marvin Samonte's roots in theater. "Kuyog" is a pandemonium of faith and devotion, the mass of people throwing themselves at the Nazarene showing the claustrophobia that both stifles and sets free the spirit. And in "Patawarin Mo Kami… ," the Nazarene carries his cross by an oblivious company drugged by the aural-visual dynamism of gadgetry.

Tres Roman wields the magic of his abstractionist colors again, but this time, he establishes a lexicon of commentary and protest. He evokes the confusion of current events and pressing concerns in "Circus," in which banner headlines and urban plagues seem to conspire to snuff out the vitality of everyday existence. In "Family Tree," he connects environ mental degradation with filial estrangement, a powerful analogy.

NOT SO/ E3


"EBONY and Ivory," by Romeo Forbes

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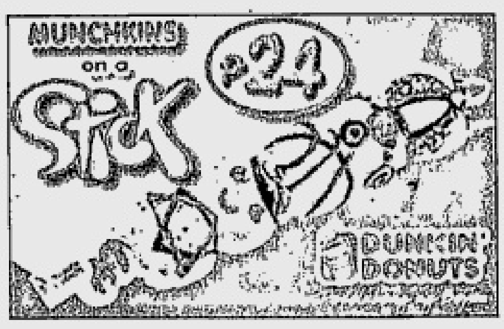

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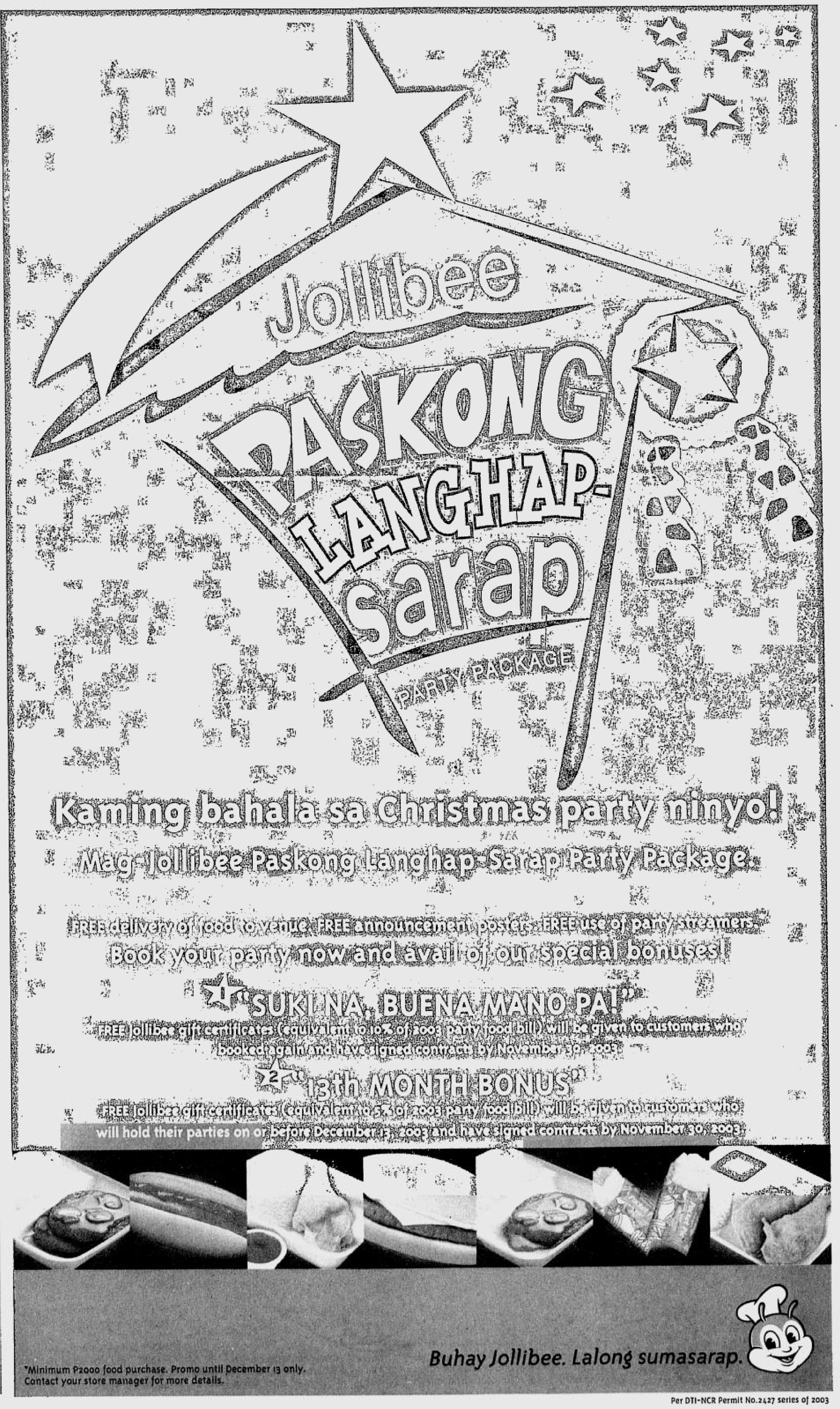

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Unprettifying a pretty painting genre

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE OLD *letras y figuras* got a makeover from our contemporary artists. Judging from the 20 artworks displayed recently in the Front Gallery of Ayala Museum, we would say it was a radical treatment.

The exhibit "Letras y Figuras: Contemporary Idiom on Idea and Identity," organized by Instituto Cervantes in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, gathered some of our more potent young artists and their slightly older colleagues to present their modernist and postmodern takes on *letras y figuras* ("letters and figures"). Each piece expresses the artist's current concerns, using the genre.

The information sheet defines this as "a genre of painting that makes clever use of imagery to form texts that often spell out the names of people who patronize them," typically depicting "impressive tableaus of colorfully dressed men and women amidst flora and fauna with Philippine landscapes and city scenes in the background."

But while those that flourished between 1845 and 1930 were mostly painted in watercolor on brown paper, the contemporary ones use a wide range of mediums, including enamel, modeling paste, photo transfer, wood, stone, metal, plastic, mirror.

The sheer variety of mixed media used by Alfredo Juan Aquilizan and his UP Los Baños Humanities class on their collaborative piece "First Person" boggles the mind. A whole wall is filled up with sundries forming the students' names: cigarettes, coiled paper pulp, hemp and jute ropes, copper and aluminum wires, cotton balls, used and unused matchsticks, seashells, crayons, dried leaves and flowers, beads, paper clips, plastic strips, rice grains, *monggo* beans, pistachio nuts, even a pair of briefs.

Text and image

In "Dogma," Mark Orozco Justiniani resorts to some trickery. He has written *I am god* in thick red paint on a mirror, and an overhead light casts on the white wall its gray reflection that spells *dogma!*

Probably the most radical is "Tore," a forbidding black structure in wood, acrylic and mixed media mounted on wheels, constructed by José Tence Ruiz in collaboration with Danilo Ilag-Ilag. It represents a cluster of Gothic spires, looking like the head of a nuclear missile, thus subliminally marrying war and religion.

While the exhibit was aimed to "refer to the basic formal elements of *letras y figuras*, that is, the equal manifestation of image and text without necessarily adhering to the intents and aesthetics of the traditional genre"—Ruiz's artwork has no text at all, not to say human figures.

It does resemble a *T*, but the hulking form could have been a warhead, a giant halberd, or a bundle of primitive weapons such as sticks, spears, broad arrows or bayonets.

Kiko Escora's "Walking Without Moving (The Illusion of Progress)," in acrylic and lacquer on canvas, does have a human figure, a red silhouette of a man against a black background—but this one doesn't have text. We were hard put to even find the letter *A* on the space between the figure's striding legs.

In "In All Things," Geraldine Javier doesn't seem to bother with text and image at all. Her blood-red piece in paper and enamel has numerous studs neatly arranged to form a symmetrical, dead-center cross on the smooth plain surface. It doesn't even pretend to be an *x* or a *t*, just a red cross.

Manner and content

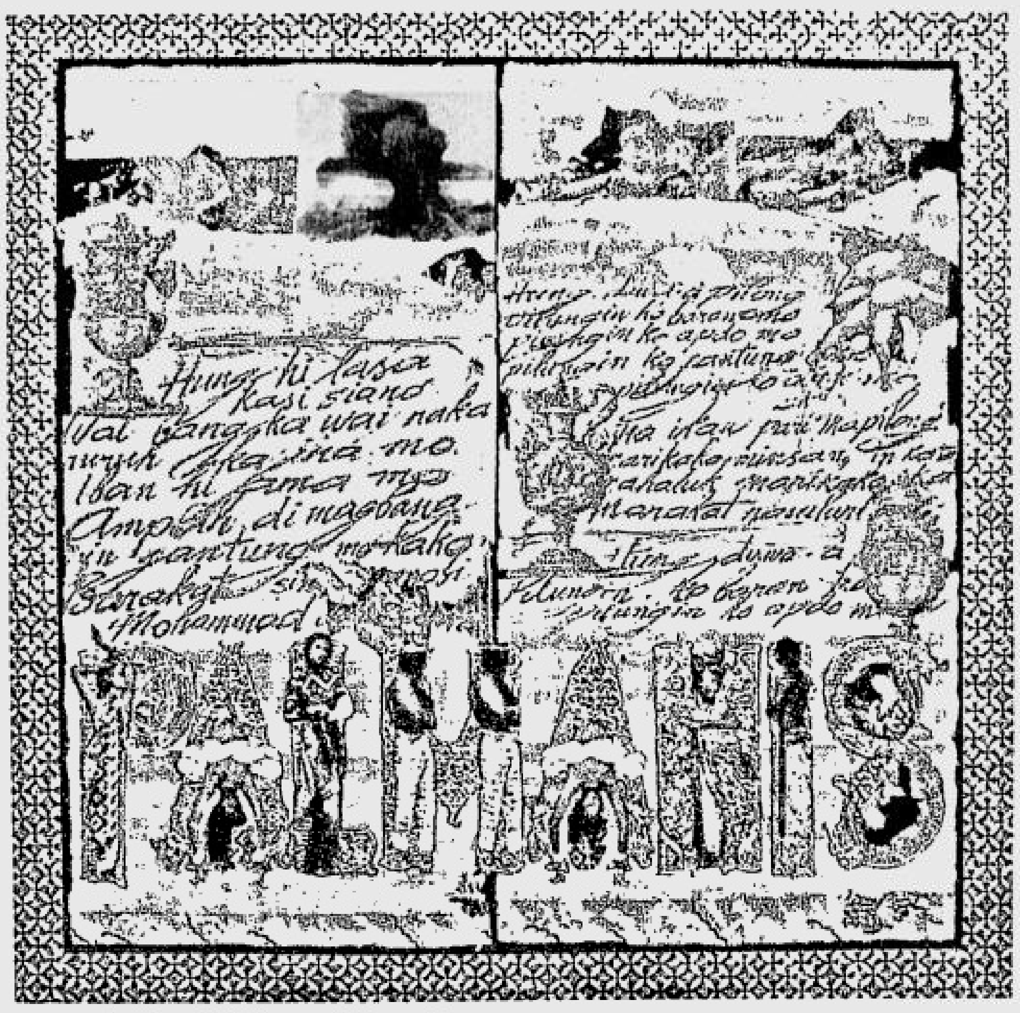
But many of the pieces in the exhibit do keep up with the balancing of text and image, though in ways divergent from the 19th-century manner, if not content.

Among these are the late Santiago Bose's "12 Chinks and a Woman," in mixed media; Brenda Fajardo's "Mga Diwata ng Buhay," acrylic on canvas; Ferdinand Montemayor's "Messages," acrylic on canvas; Wire Rommel Tuazon's "Empty of Inspiration," oil on canvas; Mario de Rivera's "Palumanis Tausug," modeling paste, photo transfer, acrylic; Cristina Tanaguchi's "Ramification, Birhen Maria," No. 2, oil on canvas; Noel Soler Cuizon's "Progress Report 2003," mixed media.

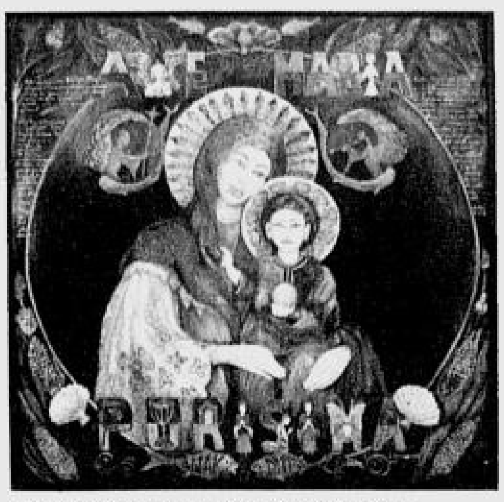
Hewing closer to the original manner of the genre are the pieces of the older artists: Virgilio Aviado's "Edsa," mixed media; Nunelucio Alvarado's "Mag-andam sa Ido," acrylic on canvas; and especially Edgar Talusan Fernandez's "Talos Mo Ba and Kanilang Kalooban," oil on canvas.

They divert only from the old *letras y figuras* in that they have unprettified this pretty painting genre. The colors and images look bleaker, the contents darker, the artists being honest with their times.

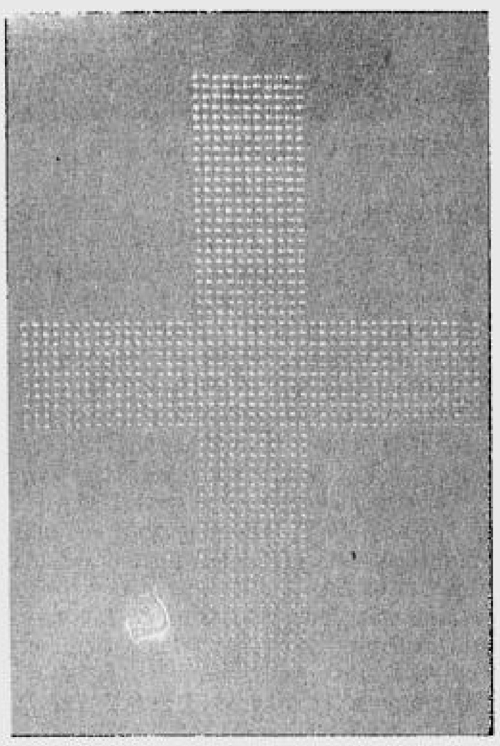
The sheer variety of mixed media used boggles the mind



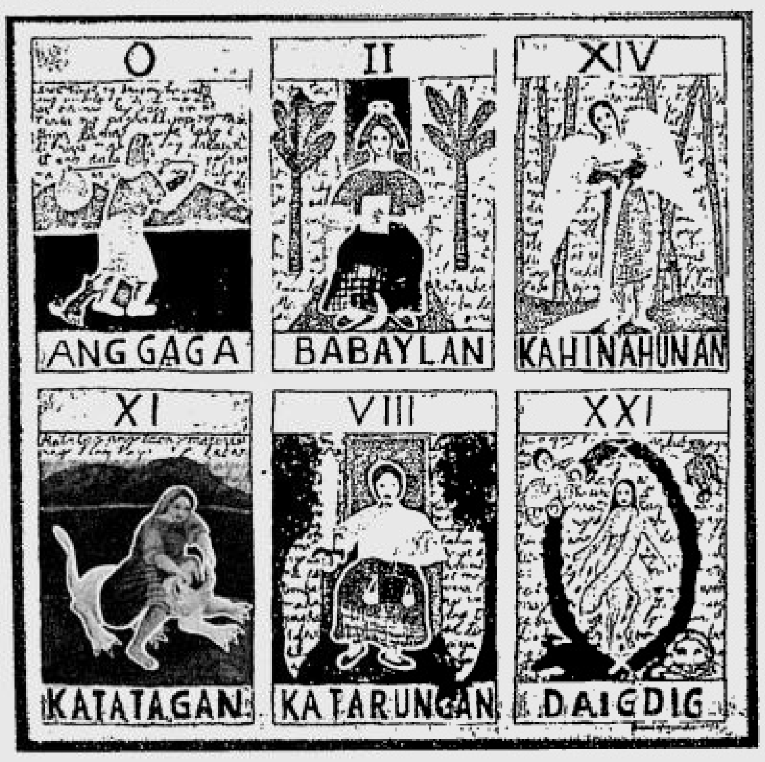
MARIO de Rivera's "Palumanis Tausug"



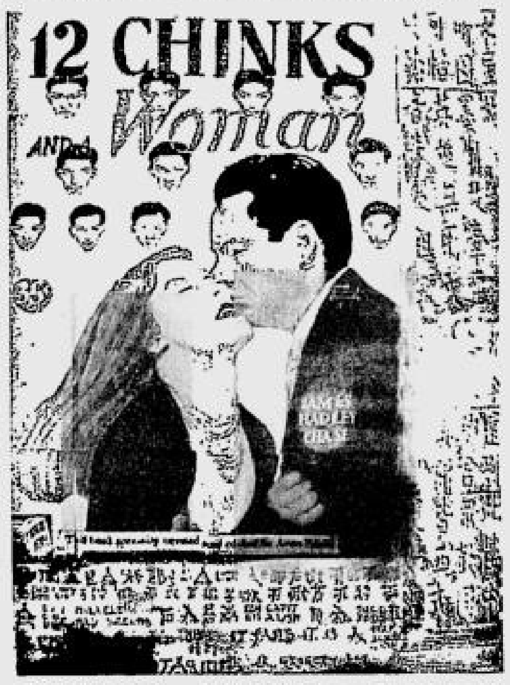
CRISTINA Tanaguchi's "Ramification, Birhen Maria" No. 2



GERALDINE Javier's "In All Things"



BRENDA Fajardo's "Mga Diwata ng Buhay"



SANTIAGO Bose's "12 Chinks and a Woman"

Quisumbing at West, Aquarellists at Le Soufflé

JVAN LVNA
OROBIA

TEENAGE artist Juan Luna Orobia will exhibit his watercolors, oil pastels, soft pastels and oils in his third one-man show at the lower level of Glorietta, Makati on Nov. 3-9. Now 16, Orobia comes from a family of artists; his mother, Fe Luna Orobia, is a niece of Juan Luna. Part of the proceeds will go to the Sisters of Grace. Call 5691812.

VISUAL ARTS

WEST Gallery presents Christina Quisumbing Ramilo's "Powerlines" on Nov. 6-18 at Glorietta 4, 3/L, Ayala Center, Makati. The artist's mixed media paintings are based on photos of powerlines as personal and social symbols.

LE SOUFFLÉ Bistro showcases the Aquarellists' 4th anniversary exhibit on Nov. 7-30 at 2/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Participating artists are Vic Bachoco, Robert Deniega, Bert Duldulao, Racquel Faustinorio, Naning Gavin, Joel Ibardolazá, Renn Maglalang, Nik Masangcay Jr., Babes Molata, Nick Paz and Roland Santos.

HIRAYA Gallery presents Queti Azurin's "Life Is Beautiful" until Nov. 14 at 530 UN Ave., Ermita, Manila. Through the 16 artworks' titles culled from Psalm 139 of the Bible, the artist portrays her spiritual rebirth.

FINALE Art Gallery features contemporary artworks by well-known Southeast Asian artists on Nov. 5-11 at the 2/L lobby of The Podium. The paintings of Ang Kiukok, Angelito Antonio, Danilo Dalena, Mauro Malang Santos, Manuel Baldemor, Norma Belleza, Dewa Putu Mokoh, Sudarso, Widayat, Kahlil Ibrahim, Thavorn Ko-Udomvit, Wee Shoo Leong, Goh Beng Kwan and Earl Lu are from the private collection of Marjorie Chu, a Singapore-based art collector and gallery owner. Chu will launch her book "Understanding Contemporary Southeast Asian Art" on Nov. 5.

THE CRUCIBLE Gallery showcases Ponch Medina's "Fetish Fun Fantasy" until Nov. 9 at the 4th level, Megamall A. Medina's art revolves around the themes of bondage, discipline, sadomasochism, dominance and submission.

METROPOLITAN Museum of Manila mounts "Kiripuranji: Contemporary Art from the Tiwi Islands" until Nov. 9 at the Catwalk Galleries, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. This touring art exhibit brings together some of the developments in contemporary art from the north Australian islands of Bathurst and Melville.

ALLIANCE Française de Manille features "Saffron Robes" by Tilak Hettige on Nov. 3-14. The Sri Lankan photographer presents the lives of people in different countries and cultures. Call 8957585/ 8957441.

SM Art Center mounts the works of Nunelucio Alvarado, Charlie Co and Dènnis Ascalon in "Raga-ak: Black Artists in Asia Exhibition." The exhibit will be held on Dec. 2-15 at Megamall A.

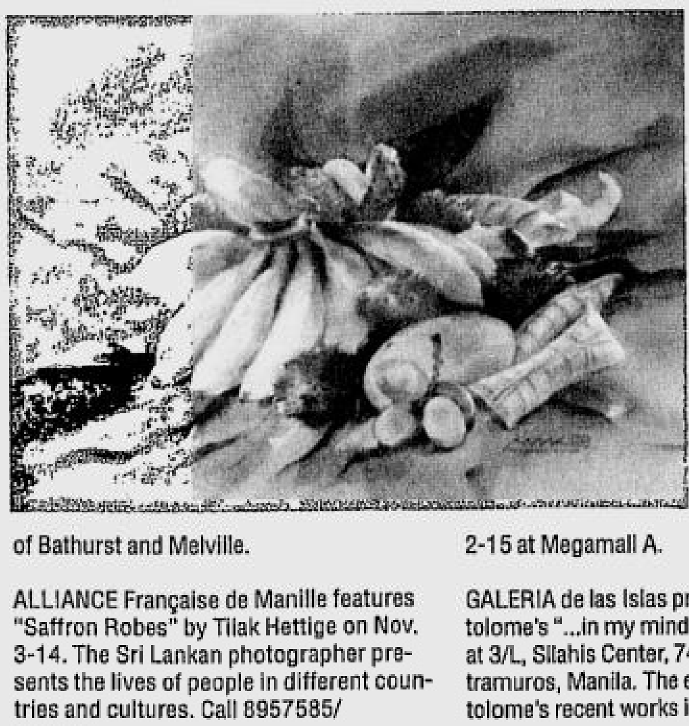
GALERIA de las Islas presents Eugene Bartolome's "...in my mind's eyes" until Nov. 15 at 3/L, Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. The exhibit features Bartolome's recent works in acrylic on paper.

SYANO Artlink features Joel Ferraris' "Fragile" until Nov. 19 at 19 Shanghai St., Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque. The artist focuses on the digital and globalized age wherein life is measured in pixels or terabytes.

UP VARGAS Museum showcases the artworks of Fabian de la Rosa, his contemporaries and former students at UP School of Fine Arts. The exhibit is ongoing until Jan. 15, 2004, at The Lobby.

BORDERS exhibits Joanna de Asis Benitez's artworks starting Nov. 20 at the ground floor of G.E. Philippines Bldg., Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati. Her paintings are rendered in charcoal and acrylic.

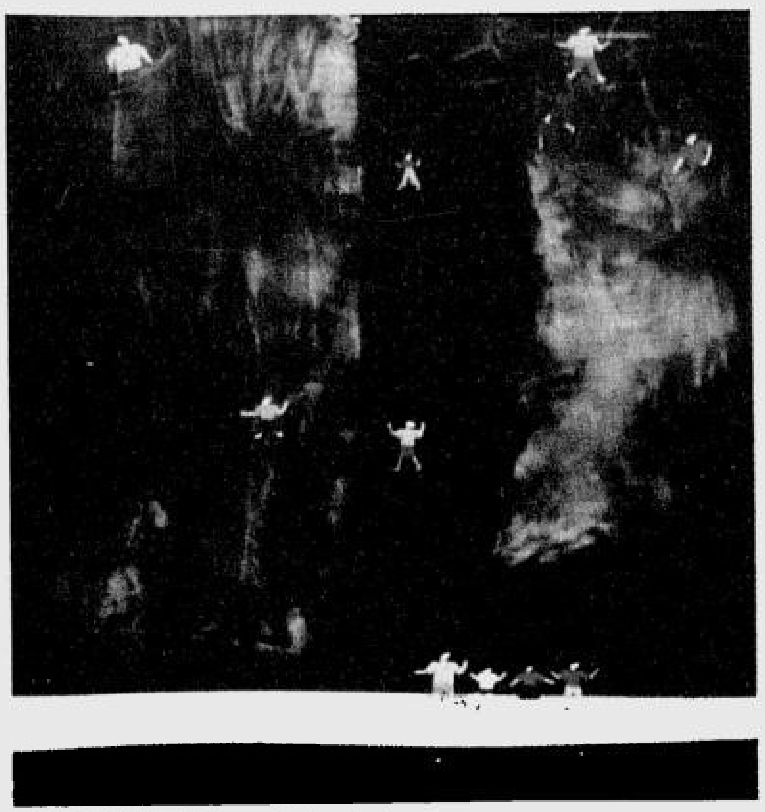
FORMER President Corazon Aquino toured the members of Congressional Spouses, Inc., led by its president, Gina de Venecia, around the Aquino Museum in Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac City, after the groundbreaking of Haven for Children. Photo shows Speaker Joe de Venecia, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, Girlie Villarosa, Chit Baculio, Bebet Nograles and Maridee Chanyungco.



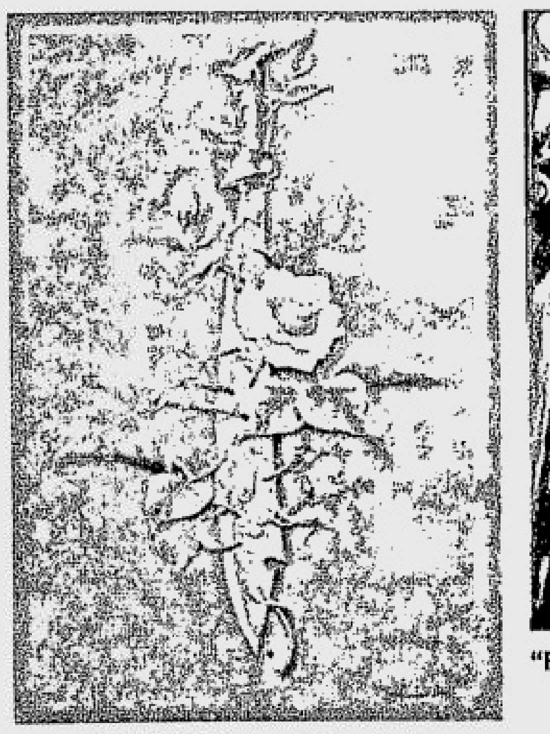
STILL Life in watercolor by Nik Masangcay Jr. at Le Soufflé

marjorie chu

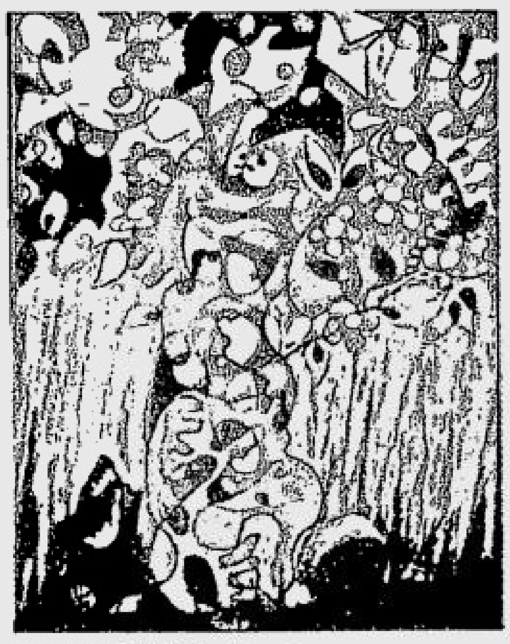
BOOK of Southeast Asian art expert Marjorie Chu to be launched at Finale



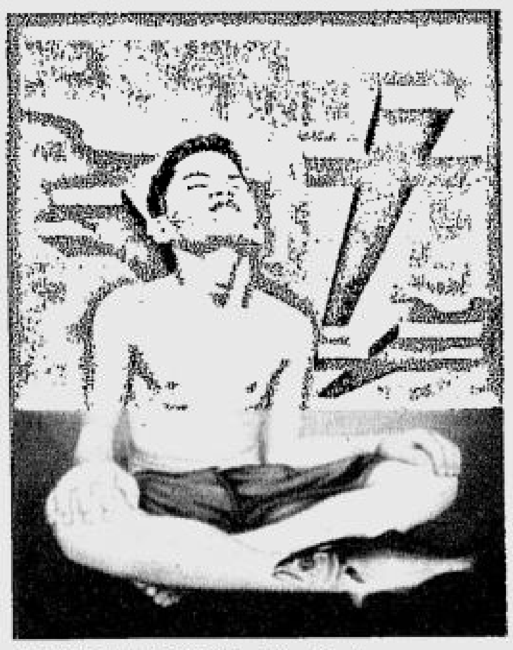
"TAGUAN," by Yveese Belen



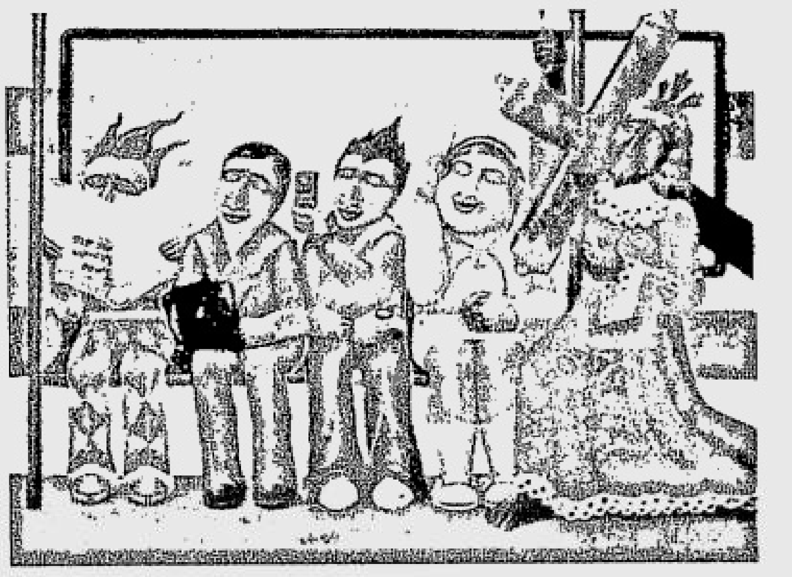
"PEACEKEEPER," by Rex Tatlonghari



"FAMILY TREE," by Tres Roman



"THE OFFERING," by Elios Santos



"PATAWARIN Mo Kami..." by Bin Samonte

Not so diminutive art

From page E1

In the works that he has become known for—of lithe women in various stages of musical performance, Anton Balao presents us a world like Jef Samonte's—strange, romantic and dreamlike. But in a dramatic turnaround, he employs the same women as figures of political fragmentation.

In "Inang Laya," the woman is a marionette with her arms and joints pulled hither and thither by the whim of foreign powers. The hazy Philippine flag hovers in the backdrop, seeming to fade and disappear.

And in "Performance," Balao situates his trademark musical instrument, this time a broken guitar, as abandoned and lost, like an impaired government. The woman figure holds a bunch of wilted yellow flowers. "Our leaders still choose to put on a show as if everything is in order," the artist says.

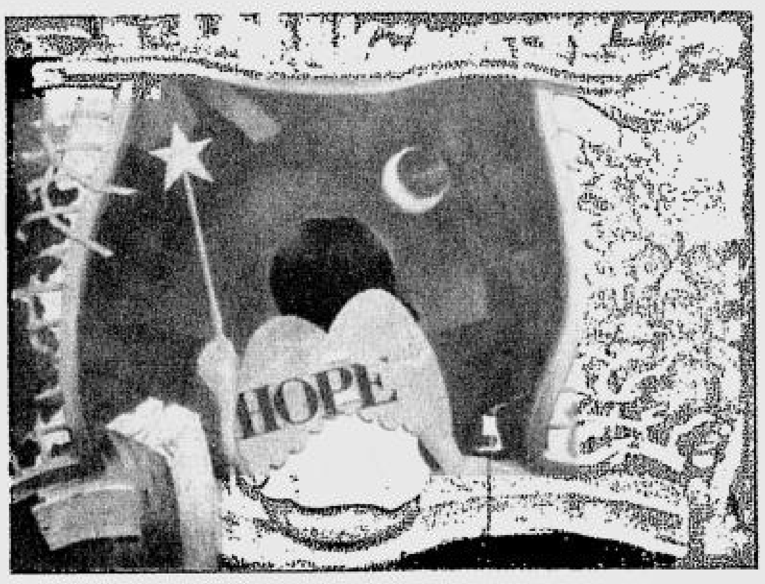
The blurring of the lines that divide and impair the social strata is the subject of Romeo Forbes' works in the exhibit. In "Ebony and Ivory," the Shell and Petron grand prize winner notes that despite racial prejudices, more and more people cross the racial lines to intermarry. In "Checkmate," Forbes comments on gender stereotyping, noting optimistically how men and women have reversed roles in an effort at understanding and peace. Now as then, Forbes' colors are friendly and appealing. His collectors won't be disappointed that while he may have turned to social commentary, he remains an engaging colorist.

Another Petron grand prize winner, Yveese Belen has more and more turned to oil from watercolor but has remained constant in her one-dimensional drawings of children at play. She tackles child labor in her set of paintings in colors that are dark but brilliant, her figures assuming the dimension of Neolithic cave drawings that arrest and transfix the modern eye. Her neo-primitivism has surely evolved in terms of depth and observation.

Rex Tatlonghari is perhaps the most experimental iconographer in the group. In strangely realistic fashion, he latches upon certain archetypes, such as an hourglass and a wine cup, and renovates them by subtle decorative touches, such as the sands of time growing roots and the wine cup growing vines. He is an artist who works best at contrasts and contradictions.

The religious iconography typical in his works makes Elios Santos the most "devout" of the group. Surprisingly, his works are endowed with a hyperrealism that seems to insist that faith and religion is concrete, not disembodied. Most of the time, his figures are set against a stark universe of unremitting earth and remotest clouds, prefiguring an existential conflict of sorts. His is a highly dramatic art.

Their intrepidity and sense of adventure ensure that these eight young artists will continue to confound and grow. Perhaps as a self-deprecating gesture, they have produced 200 miniature works for old and new collectors, part of the proceeds of which will go to the UST Journalism Society to help fund activities to promote media ethics, migration journalism and the Catholic press. (Some of the miniatures will be exhibited also in the UST Museum.)



"KINAHONG Pangarap," by Jef Samonte

At the same time, however, they have produced big works that will form the core of the exciting exhibit. The works show their evolving artistic visions. The artists also exhibit their generous heart: Each of them will donate a work to the UST collection.

"Eight" opens at the UST Museum on Nov. 6 at 6 p.m. Assisting in the show are The Store Shop, Mabuhay Graphics Inc. and The Artery. Call 5229401 or 0917-8349444.

'Ano kamo, Lomo?'

From page E4

albums, books) to choose from.

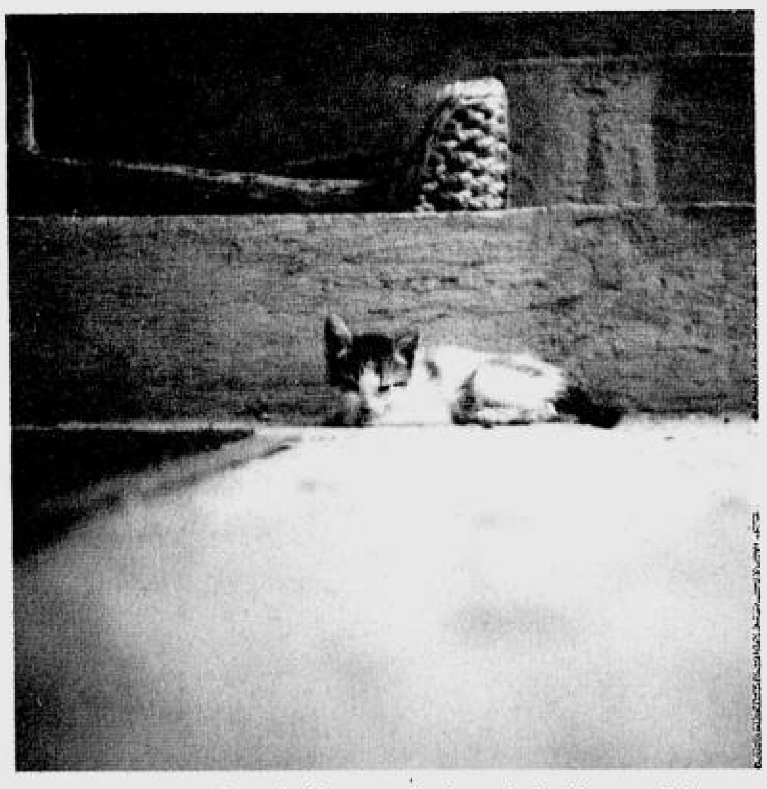
The latest best seller is the Colorsplash Flash, a wonderful little toy of a flashlight that you attach to your camera's hotshoe and that makes it possible for you to tint your pictures in whatever color you desire.

Lomo's local success is evident in "Lomo Kamo?," an exhibit featuring the creations of over 50 lomographers. Housed at the Penguin Café (corner Remedios and Jorge Bocobo Streets, Malate, Manila), the show runs until Oct. 18.

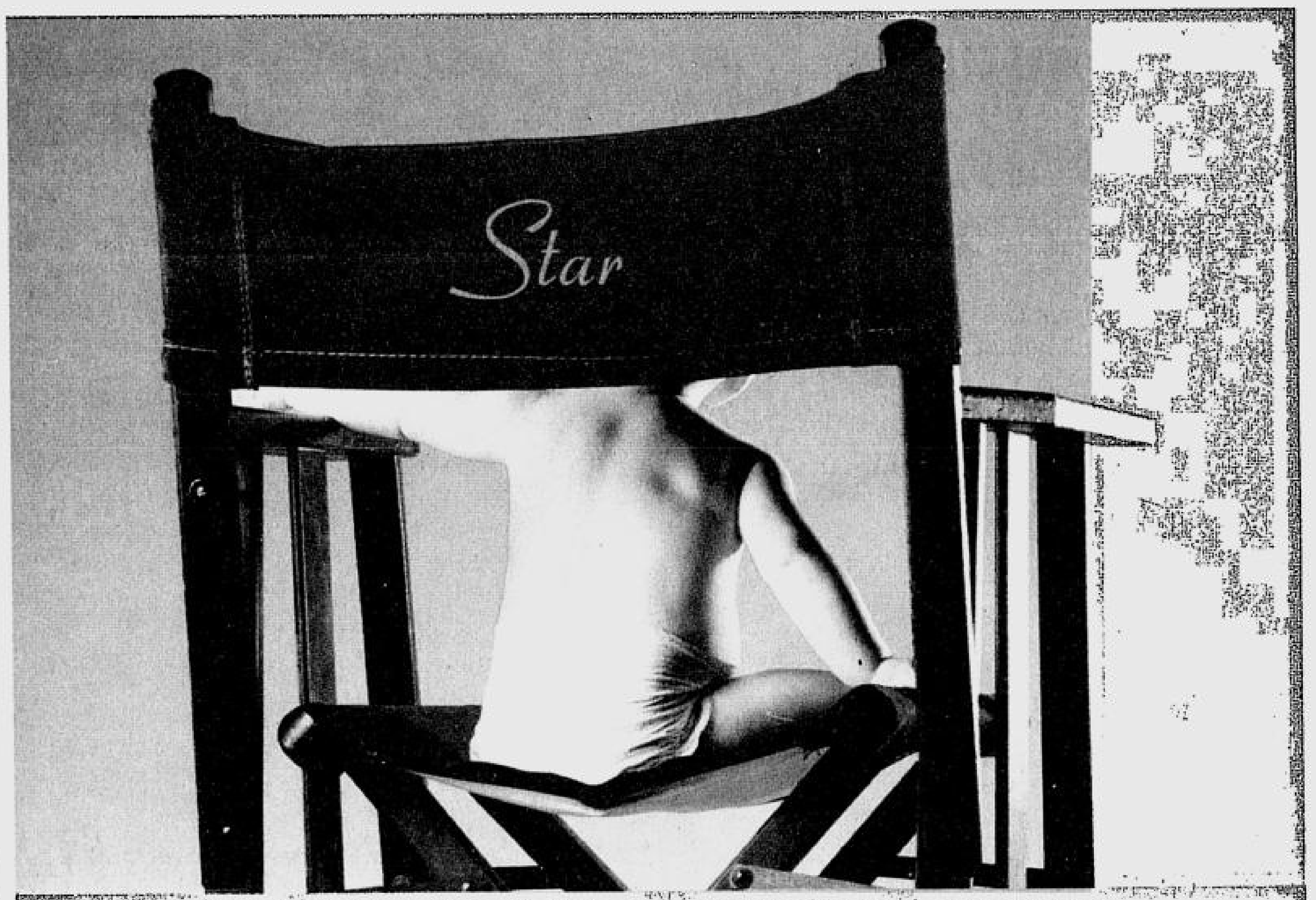
The diversity of Lomo proponents is plain to see here, if only in the creative ways by which each participant presents her/his work. From the classic to the unconventional, from the cute to the creepy, Lomo practitioners are, without a doubt, a diverse lot. Whatever your taste, more than a few gems are sure to appeal to you, either aesthetically or emotionally. Prepare to get bitten by the Lomo bug.

Subscribe to lomomanila@yahoogroups.com. For a quick Lomo fix, various products (including cameras ranging from just P2,000-P9,000) are available at UFO, at 85 Araullo St., Barangay Addition Hills, San Juan.

UFO is open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 12 to 8 p.m. Call 7220305 or 0917-3228836. E-mail ufopilipinas@yahoo.com.



THE LC-A, the mother of all Lomos, produces baby kitten-soft images such as this one, taken by Ian Rica Roxas.



HE WON'T JUST BE A CELEBRITY AT HOME.
Join the search for the HUGGIES® Happy Baby of the Year

CONTEST MECHANICS

1. Mothers/ fathers must send a recent picture of their happy baby (between 0-2 years old) printed on Kodak, preferably 4R paper with a proof of purchase from HUGGIES® Dry Comfort, HUGGIES® Dry, HUGGIES® Dry Overnites and HUGGIES® Ultratrim with the front panel complete, enclosed in an envelope with the following details:
  a. Name of baby
  b. Name of father/mother
  c. Address & telephone number
  d. Signature
  e. Brief description of the baby's picture

Outside the envelope, indicate whether baby is a boy or a girl.

2. Entries may be dropped off at Regional GMA-7 stations, selected Kodak Express stores and SM supermarkets nationwide.

3. Deadline of submission of entries for the weekly draws is every Thursday, 6pm from October 23, 2003 to November 20, 2003.

4. 20 entries will be randomly drawn and judged. From these entries, there will be 10 boys and 10 girls. The draws will be held every Monday, 10-11am, starting October 27, 2003 to November 24, 2003. at Promotech Resources, Inc., Kamuning, Quezon City.

5. Criteria for Judging:
  a. The pictures should depict a "Happy Baby" - 20%
  b. Baby should be healthy-looking and cute - 40%
  c. Short description of the photo - 20%
  d. The picture should not be a shot where implications of violence, dirt and embarassing moments are seen - 20%

6. This shortlist will be composed of two boys and two girls with the highest scores. These top four scorers will be featured per episode but only two (1 boy & 1 girl) will be chosen to be part of the Grand Finals.

7. The boy and the girl with the highest scores will be the weekly winners.

8. There will be six episodes with a total of twelve (six boys and six girls) winners for the duration of the promo (two winners per episode).

9. Babies should be between 0-2 years old upon the end of the promo December 14, 2003.

10. Out of the twelve weekly winners, one will be chosen as the HUGGIES® Happy Baby of the Year.

11. Prizes: Weekly winners will be part of the HUGGIES® Happy Baby Calendar for 2004 and will win Kodak cameras and HUGGIES® gift packs worth Php 5,000.00. Grand Prize winner wins Php 500,000.00 and a Kodak digital camera.

12. Prizes in kind are not convertible to cash and non-transferable.

13. The announcement of winners in the weekly draws and the HUGGIES® Happy Baby of the Year will be announced at "SIS" on the following dates:
  a. Oct. 31, 2003 – 2 weekly winners
  b. Nov. 7, 2003 – 2 weekly winners
  c. Nov. 14, 2003 – 2 weekly winners
  d. Nov. 21, 2003 – 2 weekly winners
  e. Nov. 28, 2003 – 2 weekly winners
  f. Dec. 5, 2003 – 2 weekly winners
  g. Dec. 12, 2003 (Grand Finals) – one HUGGIES® Happy Baby of the Year

14. Winners may claim their prizes within 60 days from receipt of notification via registered mail.

15. Grand Prize can be claimed at Ogilvy & Mather Philippines, 15th floor, Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Winner must bring the following as proof of identity:
  a. Any valid identification (company ID, driver's license, birth certificate, SSS, passport or VISA)
  b. Happy Baby winner
  c. Baby's birth certificate (to prove that child is between 0-2 years old)
  d. Registered mail sent by Ogilvy & Mather Philippines, to claim prize.

16. Weekly prizes can be claimed at Promotech Resources, Inc., Kamuning, Quezon City. To claim their prize, winners must present the following:
  a. Any valid identification (company ID, driver's license, birth certificate, SSS, passport or VISA)
  b. Happy Baby winner
  c. Baby's birth certificate (to prove that child is between 0-2 years old)
  d. Registered mail sent by Ogilvy & Mather Philippines, to claim prize.

17. For provincial weekly winners, arrangements will be made by Promotech to deliver prizes.

18. A participant can only win once in the weekly draws.

HOME VIEWER'S MECHANICS

1. Promo period: October 31, 2003 to December 17, 2003.

2. Home viewers must download the logo of a Happy Baby to be shown during the "SIS" TV show to vote for the Happy Baby of the Week.

3. Every download costs P15.00 for both postpaid and prepaid subscribers.

4. To vote for a particular baby, type in:
  Huggies_(letter of baby picture choice)_name_address
And send to:
  4627 – for Smart and Talk N' Text subscribers
  2364 – for Globe and Touchmobile subscribers

5. The texter will receive a message to acknowledge each download. He/she is entitled to one vote equivalent to one raffle entry. Sample message will be: "Thanks for voting at the HUGGIES® Happy Baby Hunt brought to you by HUGGIES® and Kodak. Each download earns you one entry to the raffle. Promo ends December 17, 2003. Cost per download is P15.00. Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 3055 series of 2003."

6. There will be no limit to the number of votes a participant can send. The more votes they send, the more chances of winning. Deadline of submission of votes is every Wednesday from November 5, 2003 to December 17, 2003.

7. Winners will be determined through an electronic raffle at GMA New Media, Incorporated (GMA NMI) every Thursday, 1pm of every week from November 6, 2003 to December 11, 2003. There will be one winner per week. The winner will be drawn from all the entries sent by texters who voted for the winning babies of the week. A participant can only win once during the promo period. Winner will receive a HUGGIES® gift pack worth Php 2,500.00.

8. Winners will also be announced within "SIS" every Friday through a winner's plug and in a newspaper of general circulation at the end of the promotion.

9. Winners will be notified by a text message from GMA's special access number, a call from GMA NMI's authorized representative and by registered mail.

10. Qualified winners must claim their prizes within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. Failure to claim within the allotted time duration forfeits the winner's right over the prize with prior DTI approval.

11. The prize may be claimed at Ogilvy & Mather Phils., 15th floor, Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. For winners outside Metro Manila, Promotech Resources, Inc. shall contact the winners and make arrangements for claiming the prize.

12. Winners must present the following when claiming their prize:
  a. A congratulatory text message coming from GMA's access numbers
  b. Any valid ID with picture and address
  c. The SIM card where the entry was made
  d. The registered mail they received from GMA.

Employees of Kimberly-Clark Philippines, Inc. and Kodak Philippines, their franchisees, their advertising agency, Ogilvy & Mather, PR, promotion agencies and all participating outlets including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the contest promotion.

Promo period: October 31, 2003 to December 17,2003.

Happy Baby Hunt

Tune in to SIS (10:30-11:00 am) and other GMA primetime shows (6:40-10:40 pm) for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3055 series of 2003

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

LOMOGRAPHER Junnie Arreza sampling the fun possibilities of the SuperSampler

'Ano kamo, Lomo?'

By Eduardo M. Enriquez
Contributor

LENINGRADSKOYEOPTIKOMECHANICHESCKOYEOBYEDINENIE. With such a mouthful for a name, it's no surprise that this photographic phenomenon is better known as Lomo.

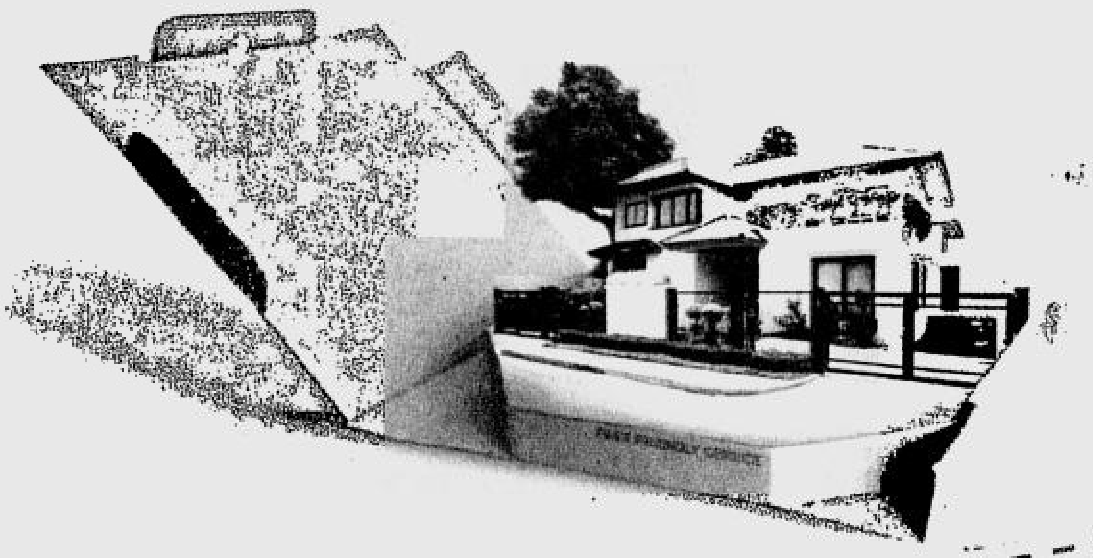
St. Petersburg, Russia, was the birthplace of the first Lomo camera, the Lomo Kompakt Automat, aka the LC-A. Capable of producing excellent photos in all lighting conditions, the LC-A was initially designed as a spy camera. Its user-friendly versatility proved too appealing to remain a secret, however, and in 1992, the Lomographic Society (based in Vienna) introduced the LC-A to the world, resulting in enormous cult success.

Not surprisingly, Lomographers the world over began asking for more Lomo products. 1998 saw the introduction of the ActionSampler, which splits a second into four parts, resulting in four-equally sized sequential shots, arranged as a grid in a single print. Next came the SuperSampler, which, believe it or not, is powered by a ripcord instead of batteries! Like the ActionSampler, the SuperSampler takes sequential shots, although these are arranged as four vertical or horizontal layers.

Due to Lomo's cult appeal and worldwide success, the Lomographic Society has been hard at work creating even more cameras and accessories in an attempt to whet the insatiable appetites of Lomophiles across the globe.

Aside from the Pop 9 camera, which produces nine identical images as a 3x3 grid on a single print, and the Holga, which produces charming, square-format photos with a surprisingly minimal mechanism, there is also a growing range of Lomo products (photo clips,

'ANO KAMO, / E3



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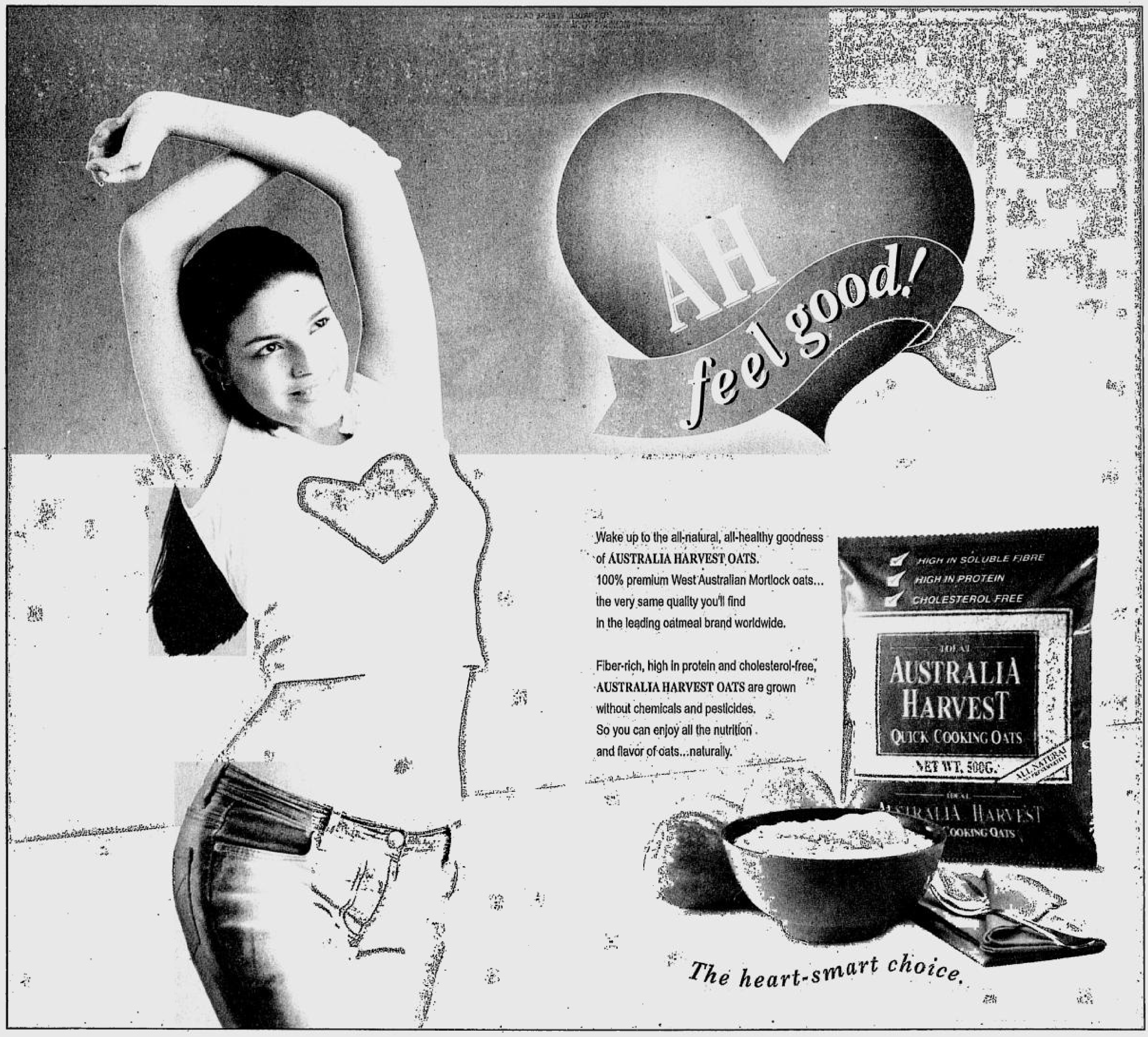

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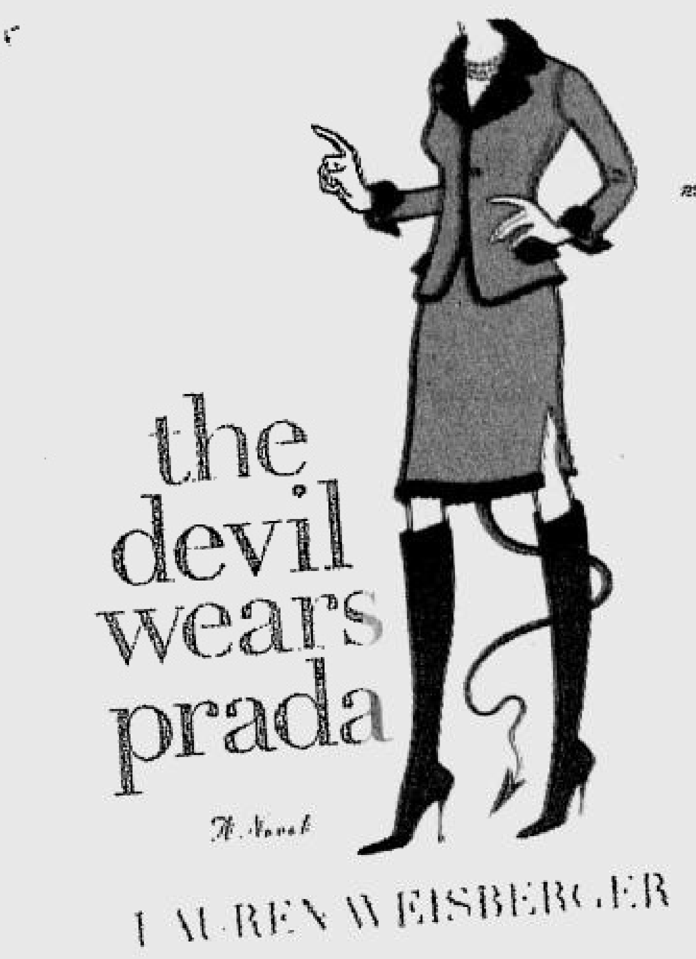

The 'Devil' is in the design detail

The controversial novel dives deep into the glossy world of fashion journalism and emerges both addictive and deeply flawed

"The Devil Wears Prada"
By Lauren Weisberger
(Broadway Books, New York, 2003, 360 pages)

REVIEW

By Ruel S. De Vera

AFTER all the impassioned ink spilled about it, Laura Weisberger's debut novel, "The Devil Wears Prada" may be either horrendously unreadable or fantastically enlightening. The truth, of course, lies somewhere in between.

A former assistant to Vogue editor Anna Wintour, Weisberger has gotten the fashion and writing world's attention by writ-

THE 'DEVIL'/ F3

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CLASS SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2003

NOV. 6, THURSDAY, 1:30-5:00 pm, DESSERTS GALORE 1 (demo class at New Manila) Rum Chocolate Fruit Cake, Rum Cake, Cappuccino Brownies, Caramel Brownies, Walnut Caramel Tartlets. Tuition Fee P850

NOV. 8, SATURDAY, 9 am to 12 noon, ASSORTED BARS (demo class at Julius Maggi Kitchen, Nestle Bldg., Makati) Chewy Brownies, Chocolate Chip Bars, Lemon Squares, Coconut Bars, Drunken Date and Walnut Bars. Tuition Fee P850

NOV. 11, TUESDAY, 1:30-5:00 pm, CHRISTMAS MENU 6 (demo class at New Manila) Green Salad with Creamy Parmesan, Basil and Pignoli Dressing, Elegant Crown Roast of Pork with Shortcut Paella Filling, Baked Chicken with Creamy Basil and Garlic, Seafood Medley, Pandan Gelatin Parfait. Tuition Fee P950

NOV. 13, THURSDAY, 1:30-5:00 pm, PASTA AND SALAD 3 (demo class at New Manila) Frozen Fruit Salad, Fresh Fruit Salad with Sour Cream Dressing, Pasta with Beef Salpicado, Fettuccine Alfredo with Bacon Bits, Baked Chicken Macaroni. Tuition Fee P850

NOV. 15, SATURDAY, 9 am to 12 noon. QUICKBREADS AND DRUNKEN CAKES 1 (demo class at Julius Maggi Kitchen, Nestle Bldg., Makati) Rum Cake from Scratch, Apple Cake with Figs and Cream Cheese Frosting, Family Fruitcake, Banana Prune Cake, Carrot Cake with Rum Buttercream. Tuition Fee P850

NOV. 18, TUESDAY, 1:30-5:00 pm, CAKES FOR THE HOLIDAYS (demo class at New Manila) Amaretto Cheesecake, Oreo Cheesecake 2, Black Forest Cheesecake, Banana Rum Cake, Orange Poppy Seed Bundt Cake. Tuition Fee P850

NOV. 20, THURSDAY, 1:30-5:00 pm, GIFT BASKET TO PACK 1 (demo class at New Manila) Breadsticks from Scratch, Green Salad with Homemade Dressing, Marinated Kesong Puti, Baked Pasta, Galantina, Apple Rum Cake plus how to pack them in one big basket. Tuition Fee P850

NOV. 22, SATURDAY, 9 am to 12 noon, GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS (demo class at Julius Maggi Kitchen, Nestle Bldg., Makati) All American 5 Star Brownies, Butterscotch Brownies with Fruits and Nuts, German Chocolate Brownies with Coconut Caramel Topping, Tipsy Mexican Brownies, Updated Rocky Road Brownies. Tuition Fee P850

NOV. 24, MONDAY, 1:30-5:00 pm, DESSERTS 2 (demo class at New Manila) Apple Oatmeal Muffins, Baklava Made Easy, Hungarian Nut Horns, Caramel Coffee Cake, Baked Orange Cheesecake. Tuition Fee P850

NOV. 26, WEDNESDAY, 1:30-5:00 pm, SANS RIVAL AND VARIATIONS (demo class at New Manila) The way Sans Rival used to be - paper thin wafers and rich buttercream in different flavors: Classic French Buttercream, Chocolate, Pandan, Mango, Caramel, Mocha. Tuition Fee P850

NOV. 28, FRIDAY, 1:30-5:00 pm, ALL DRESSED UP FOR DINNER (demo class at New Manila) Tossed Greens with Fruity Black Pepper Dressing, Dressed Up Clear Soup, Baked Clams and Mussels with Assorted Toppings, Roast Chicken with Lemon and Herbs, Hawaiian French Cut Roast Porkloin, Party Fish Salad, Green Rice, Mini Decadent Cake with All the Trimmings. Tuition Fee P950

DEC. 1, MONDAY, 1:30-5:00 pm, GIFT BASKET TO PACK 2 (demo class at New Manila) Biscotti, Butterscotch Bars, Butter Loaf, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Meringue Mushrooms, Bread and Butter Pudding and how to present them in a basket together with coffee mugs, tableas and coffee all in 1 package. Tuition Fee P850

DEC. 3, WEDNESDAY, 1:30-5:00 pm, TARTS TO WRAP (demo class at New Manila) Six tarts to bake and wrap - Caramel Tart, Macapuno Tart, Yema Tart, Durian Tart, Cashew Tart and Triple Nut Tart. Tuition Fee P850

DEC. 5, FRIDAY, 10 am to 5 pm, HANDS-ON BAKING 8 (whole day hands-on at New Manila) More yeast breads from the oven - Ube Bread, Pandan Macapuno Bread, Asado Bread, Hawaiian Bread, Bubble Loaf with a Chocolate Glaze. Tuition Fee P1,000

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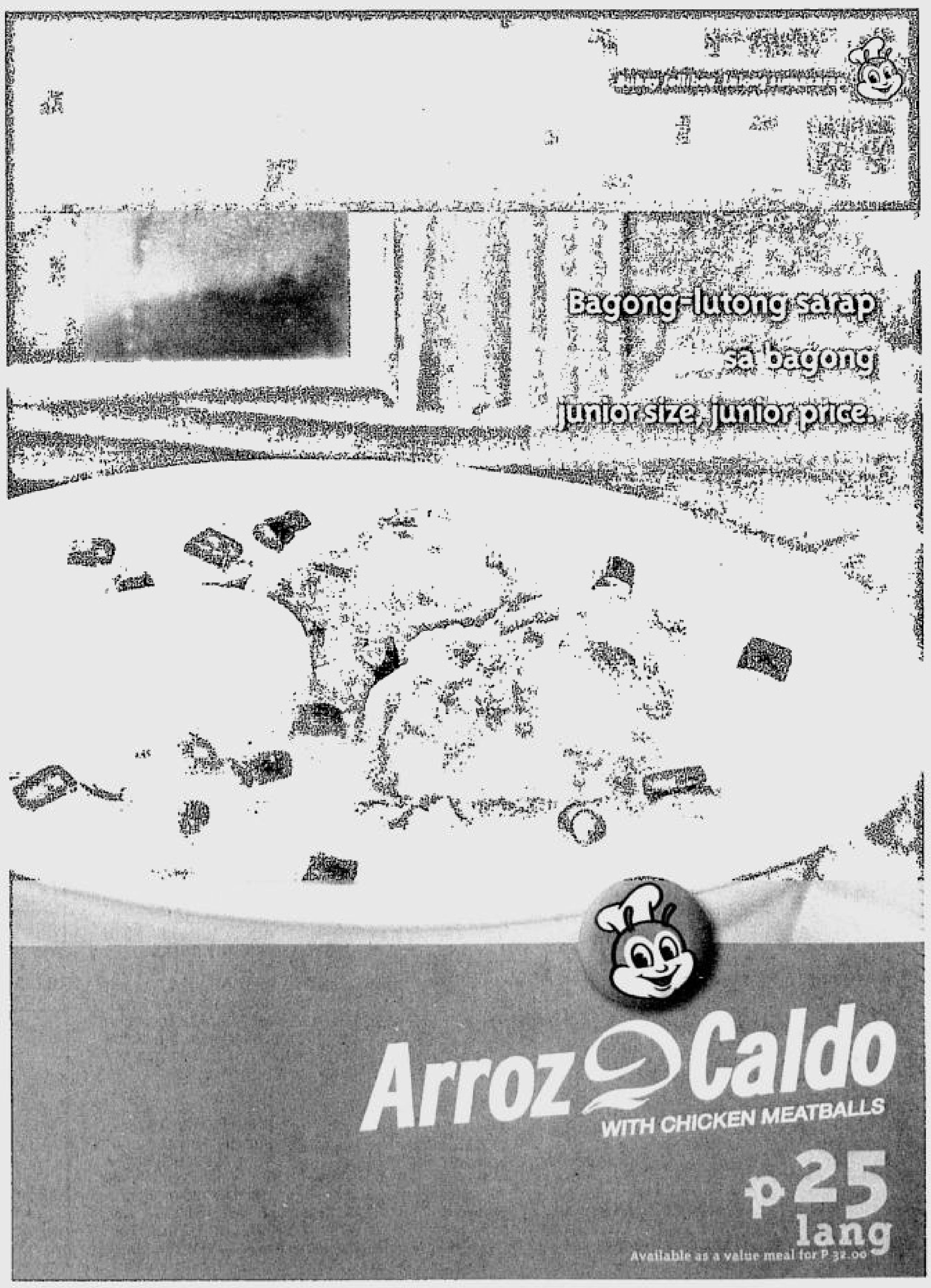

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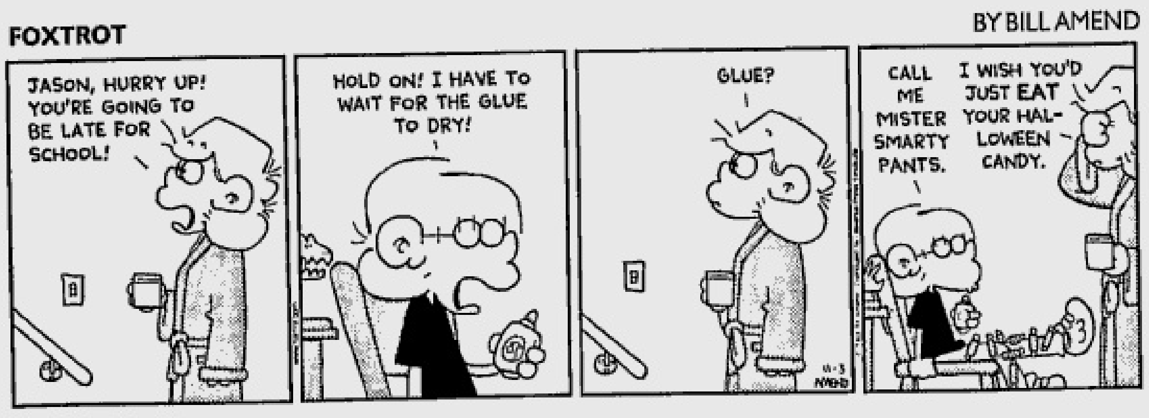
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2003

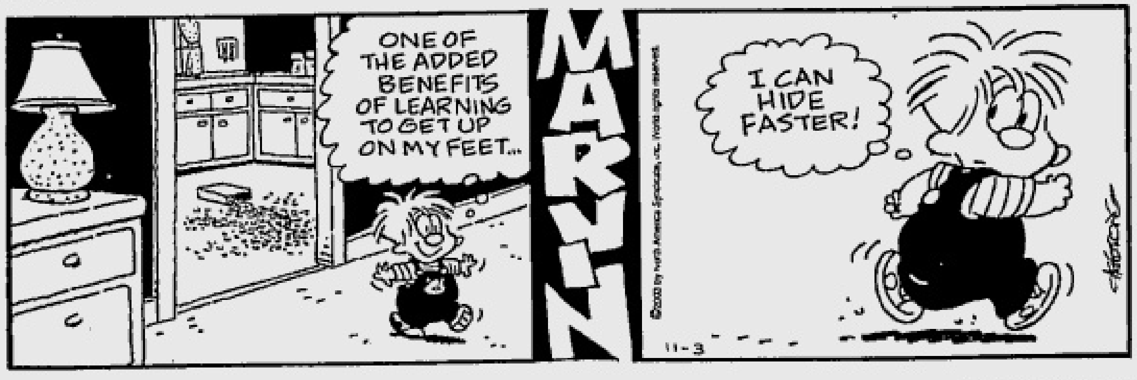
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON, HURRY UP! YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!
HOLD ON! I HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE GLUE TO DRY!
GLUE?
CALL ME MISTER SMARTY PANTS.
I WISH YOU'D JUST EAT YOUR HALLOWEEN CANDY.
11-3
AMEND

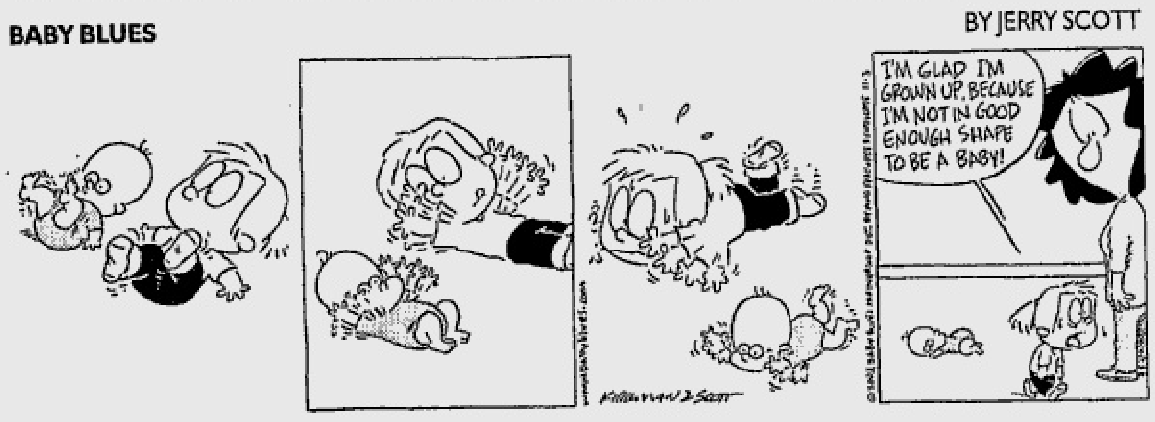
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


ONE OF THE ADDED BENEFITS OF LEARNING TO GET UP ON MY FEET...
MARVIN
I CAN HIDE FASTER!
11-3

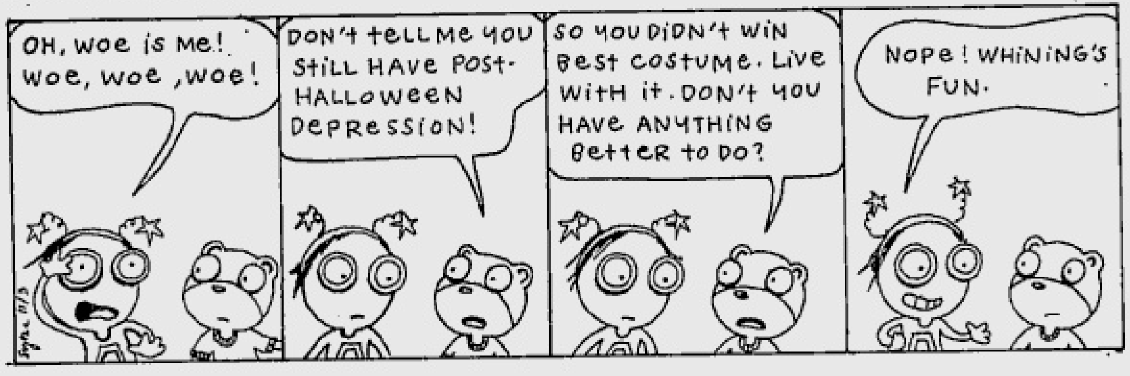
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M GLAD I'M GROWN UP, BECAUSE I'M NOT IN GOOD ENOUGH SHAPE TO BE A BABY!
KIRKMAN / SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH, WOE IS ME! WOE, WOE, WOE!
DON'T TELL ME YOU STILL HAVE POST-HALLOWEEN DEPRESSION!
SO YOU DIDN'T WIN BEST COSTUME. LIVE WITH IT. DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO?
NOPE! WHINING'S FUN.
Lyra 11/3

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are tough, resilient and persistent. Your ability to endure and focus on what you want is the secret to your success. You're competitive and cautious. You don't like to lose. When you meet people, you either like them or not—instantly. New adventure comes your way this year. An entirely new cycle will begin. **Birthdate of:** Charles Bronson, actor; Roseanne Barr, actress/comedian; Kathy Kinney, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Start this week off with a firm intention to settle matters about joint property, debt and shared responsibilities. You will feel so much better when this is taken care of.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be honest with yourself about your style of relating to others—especially a partner or spouse. Close relationships offer us mirrors in which we can see ourselves.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Make this week another successful effort to get better organized. You're on the right track. Sort, clean, file and throw out.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your creative energies are strong now. You're also in a romantic mood. As you plan the week ahead, allow some time for play.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Everything having to do with home, family and real estate requires your attention now. Talk to a family member about the use of something that you share between you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The Moon is opposite your sign today. Start this week off gently. Listen to what others have to say, and just nod. Don't make any waves.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good day to start the week off. You're in the mood to work and get things done. Think about how you can get cooperation from others to do the job right.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The beginning of this week is an excellent time to ask yourself what you can do to improve your appearance and your style of relating to others. You're skilled at making powerful transformations.

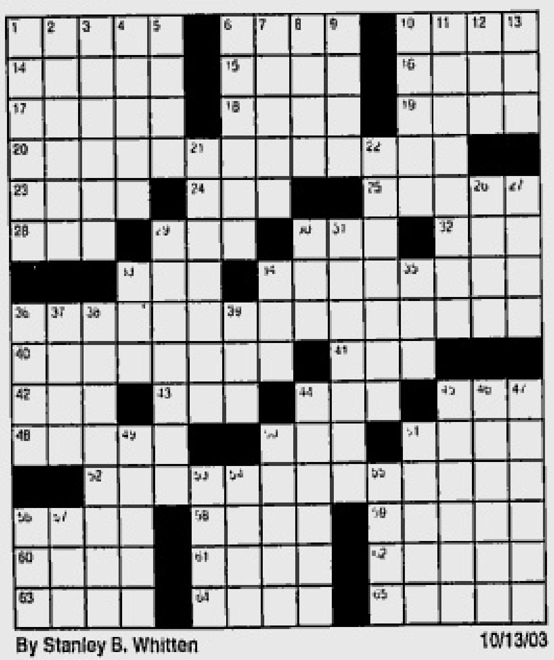
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Because of uncertainty and major changes in your domestic sphere, you need more rest now. You can't be all things to all people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a busy day for you. Your abilities to sell, persuade, negotiate and teach are excellent right now. All of your communication will go well, as long as you don't get too aggressive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Attend to banking and financial matters today. Find out how much money you have and what you owe. This could put you, mentally speaking, on top of the picture, and that's a beginning.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): The Moon is in your sign today. Travel plans, publishing and the media, legal matters and higher education are strong concerns for you now. You can make headway in these areas.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

10/13/03

ACROSS
1 Tarries
6 Beatty film
10 Discomfort
14 Accustom
15 Verve
16 Praise
17 Loose rock debris
18 Supernatural power
19 Bullets and such
20 1992 tennis film?
23 Remains
24 Terminate
25 Grief
28 CIA forerunner
29 Family member
30 Going-public letters
32 Potash
33 Group of GIs
34 Scampered
36 1950 tennis film?
40 Like an open prairie
41 Horace work, "__ Poetica"
42 Botanist Gray
43 Actress Lupino
44 Handwritten writings: abbr.
45 Young man
48 Dog greetings
50 Spider-spotter's cry
51 Father
52 2003 tennis film?
56 Kuwait's ruler
58 Artist Bonheur
59 Land of Port-au-Prince
60 Kudrow of "Friends"
61 Large inland sea
62 State
63 Speedy
64 Bengal and Biscay
65 Painter's base

DOWN
1 Cafe
2 Foot parts
3 Coercion
4 Build
5 Crystal-gazer
6 Jog one's memory
7 African antelope
8 Mild expletive
9 Catch
10 Texas shrine
11 Showy roselike flower
12 Buzz
13 Old name for Tokyo
21 Fermented
22 Worshippers
26 __ and terminer
27 Funny Foxx
29 Epee wielder
30 ER neighbor
31 City SW of Roanoke
33 Enzyme ending
34 Distress letters
35 Letters for motor homes
36 Pierce
37 Sky bear
38 Close call
39 Baden-Powell's org.
44 Ore products
45 Boundaries
46 Narrow ridges
47 "Raging Bull" Oscar winner
49 Gold measure
50 Lamb paper
51 Ray
53 Fiddler or hermit
54 Israeli dance
55 Drink in one gulp
56 Sprite
57 Farrow of "The Purple Rose of Cairo"

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	S	I	S	T	E	D	■	O	R	M	O	L	U
M	A	L	L	A	R	M	E	■	D	I	A	P	E	R
A	V	I	A	T	I	O	N	■	E	D	G	I	N	G
R	O	M	■	I	S	T	O	■	S	E	D	A	T	E
E	R	N	■	S	T	E	M	S	■	O	A	T	E	N
T	I	E	■	F	E	D	■	O	P	U	L	E	N	T
T	E	S	T	Y	■	■	O	R	A	T	E	■	■	■
O	S	S	A	■	U	T	T	E	R	■	N	E	S	S
■	■	■	S	P	R	A	T	■	■	R	E	A	C	T
P	A	S	S	I	N	G	■	P	G	A	■	S	H	E
A	C	M	E	S	■	S	P	U	R	N	■	T	E	E
T	H	E	L	M	A	■	E	R	I	K	■	S	I	R
T	I	L	L	I	S	■	A	D	E	L	A	I	D	E
E	E	L	E	R	S	■	L	A	V	E	N	D	E	R
D	R	Y	D	E	N	■	S	H	E	D	D	E	R	S

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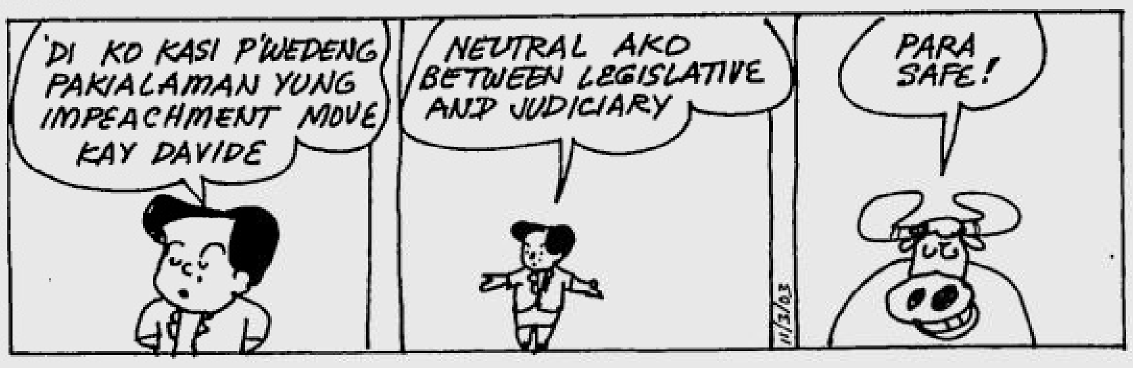
11/3/03

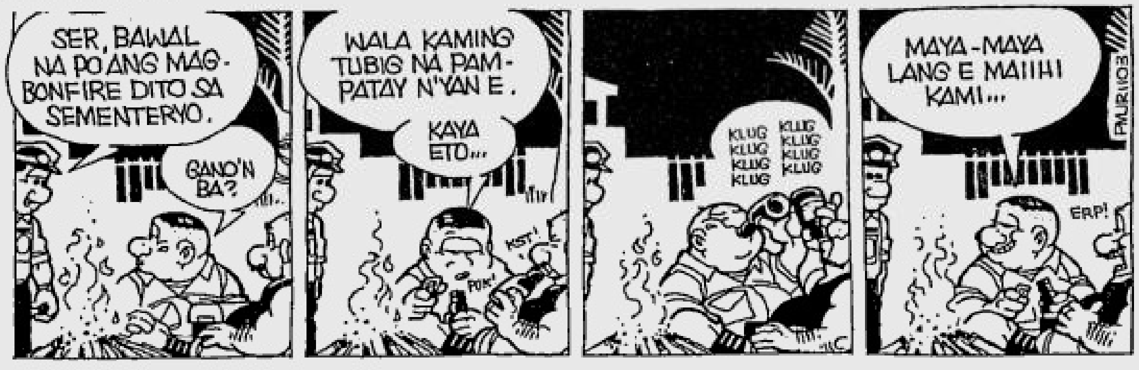
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'DI KO KASI P'WEDENG PAKIALAMAN YUNG IMPEACHMENT MOVE KAY DAVIDE
NEUTRAL AKO BETWEEN LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIARY
PARA SAFE!
11/3/03

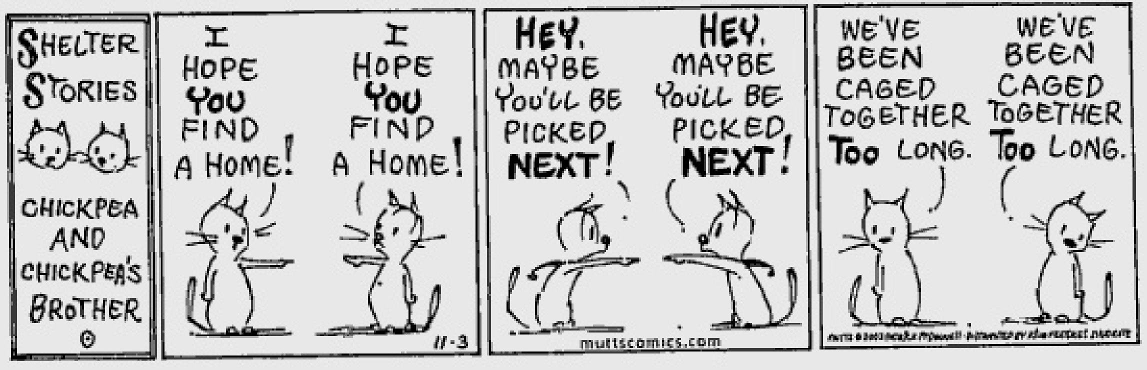
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SER, BAWAL NA PO ANG MAG-BONFIRE DITO SA SEMENTERYO.
GANO'N BA?
WALA KAMING TUBIG NA PAMPATAY N'YAN E.
KAYA ETO...
KST!
POK!
KLUG KLUG KLUG KLUG KLUG KLUG KLUG KLUG
MAYA-MAYA LANG E MAIIHI KAMI...
ERP!
PMJR11103

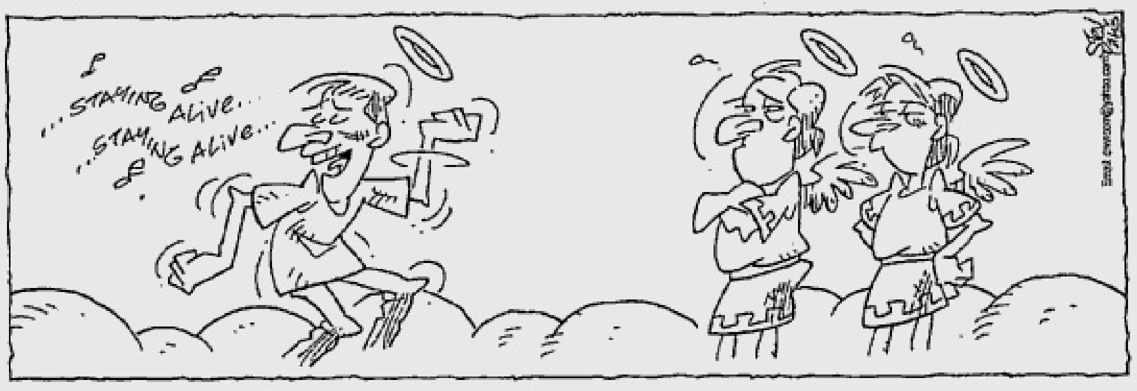
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
CHICKPEA AND CHICKPEA'S BROTHER
I HOPE YOU FIND A HOME!
I HOPE YOU FIND A HOME!
HEY, MAYBE YOU'LL BE PICKED NEXT!
HEY, MAYBE YOU'LL BE PICKED NEXT!
WE'VE BEEN CAGED TOGETHER TOO LONG.
WE'VE BEEN CAGED TOGETHER TOO LONG.
11-3
muttscomics.com

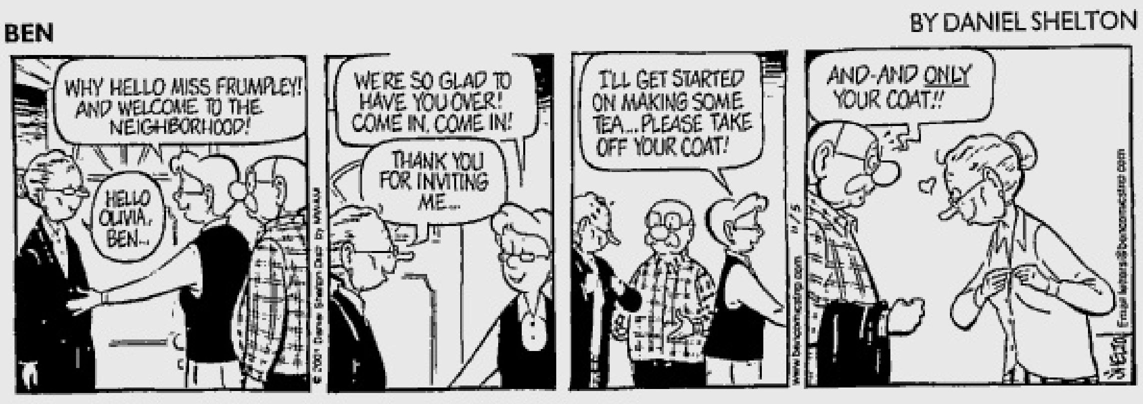
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


...STAYING ALIVE...
...STAYING ALIVE...

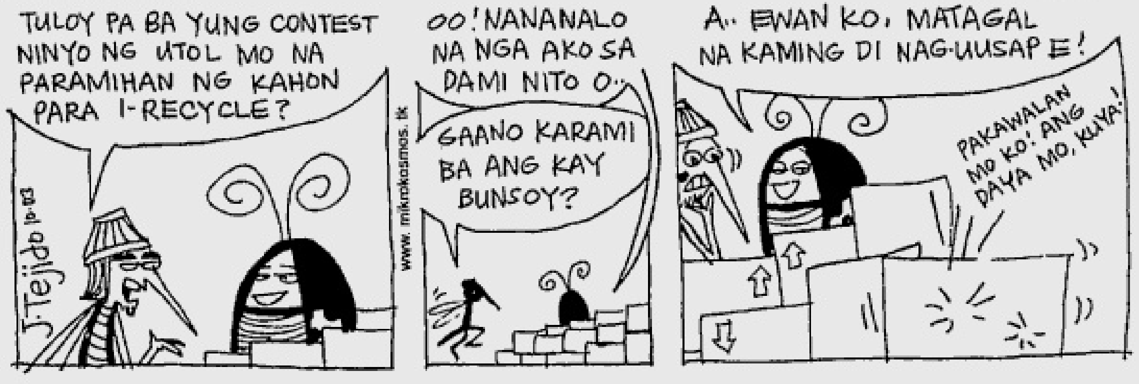
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHY HELLO MISS FRUMPLEY! AND WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
HELLO OLIVIA, BEN...
WE'RE SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU OVER! COME IN, COME IN!
THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME...
I'LL GET STARTED ON MAKING SOME TEA... PLEASE TAKE OFF YOUR COAT!
AND-AND ONLY YOUR COAT!!

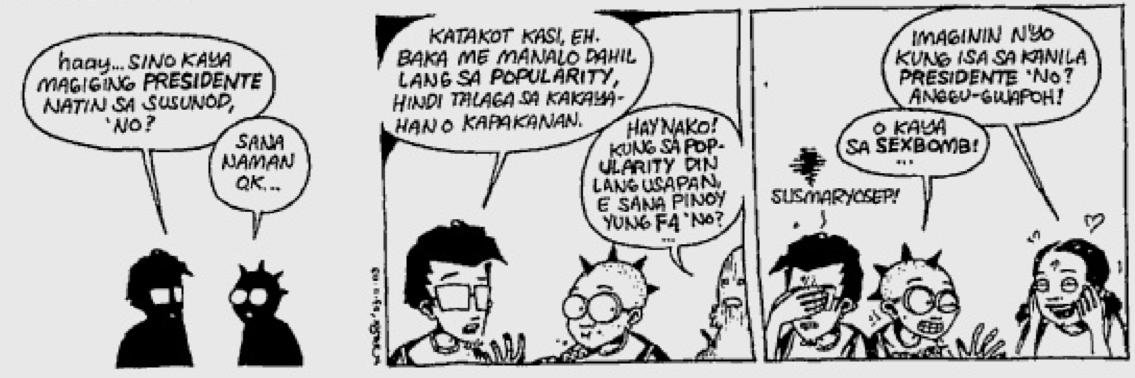
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TULOY PA BA YUNG CONTEST NINYO NG UTOL MO NA PARAMIHAN NG KAHON PARA I-RECYCLE?
OO! NANANALO NA NGA AKO SA DAMI NITO O..
GAANO KARAMI BA ANG KAY BUNSOY?
A.. EWAN KO, MATAGAL NA KAMING DI NAG-UUSAP E!
PAKAWALAN MO KO! ANG DAYA MO, KUYA!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido

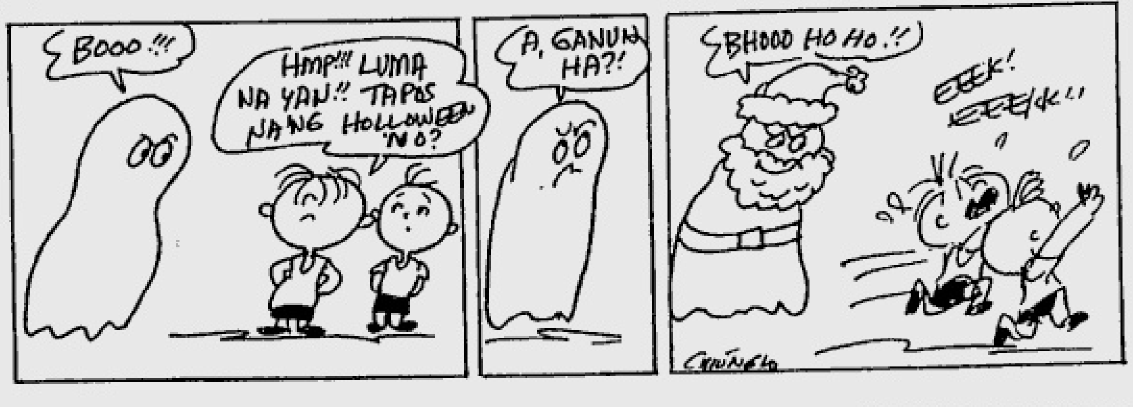
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


haay... SINO KAYA MAGIGING PRESIDENTE NATIN SA SUSUNOD, 'NO?
SANA NAMAN OK...
KATAKOT KASI, EH. BAKA ME MANALO DAHIL LANG SA POPULARITY, HINDI TALAGA SA KAKAYAHAN O KAPAKANAN.
HAYNAKO! KUNG SA POPULARITY DIN LANG USAPAN, E SANA PINOY YUNG F4 'NO?
IMAGININ N'YO KUNG ISA SA KANILA PRESIDENTE 'NO? ANGGU-GWAPOH!
O KAYA SA SEXBOMB!
SUSMARYOSEP!

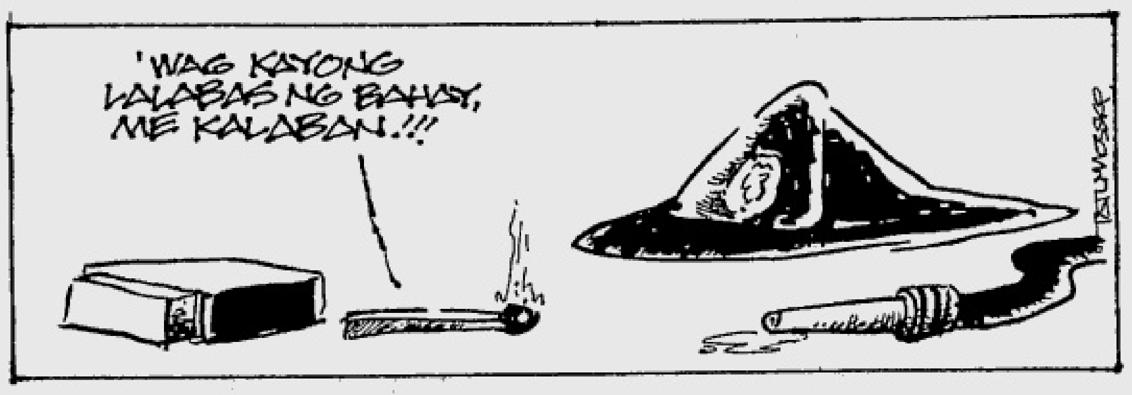
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOOO!!!
HMP!!! LUMA NA YAN!! TAPOS NA NG HOLLOWEEN 'NO?
A, GANUN HA?!
BHOOO HO HO.!!
EEEK! EEEEK!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KAYONG LALABAS NG BAHAY, ME KALABAN.!!!
TATUM/CESAR

Over 100 designs for 2004 calendars

IMPORTED 2004 calendars are now available at the National Book Store.

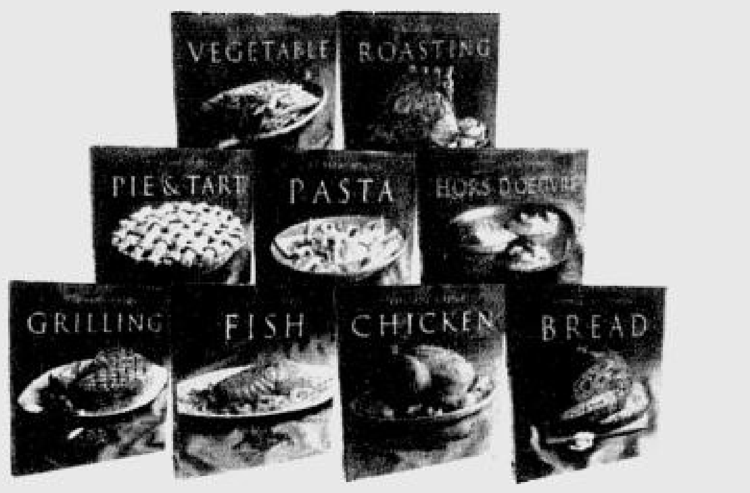
Printed in France, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, Belgium, Canada, United States, Korea and China, the calendars come in different styles and have some 170 designs. They include paintings by renowned artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Gustave Klimt, Carl Larsson, Henri Matisse, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso, Auguste Renoir and Vincent Van Gogh.

Calendars featuring animals, places, mountains and wonders of nature, plus spiritual themes, are also available.

Wall and boxed-type prices go from P20 up, while mini calendars sell for P195 each.

The calendars are available at all National Book Store branches.

Cookbooks by a hardware store owner



CHUCK E. Williams, owner of the hardware store chain Williams-Sonoma, is also the general editor of the Williams-Sonoma Kitchen Library Series and editor emeritus of Williams-Sonoma Taste magazine.

For the past decade, he has been involved in the publication of over 100 Williams-Sonoma cookbooks, receiving many awards, including the Lifetime Achievement prize from the Association of Culinary Professionals.

Each Williams-Sonoma cookbook features a wide array of possible preparations for classic dining fare like chicken, soup, salad, vegetable and pasta. It includes numerous photographs. Photographic side notes highlight key ingredients and techniques. An informative basics section and extensive glossary provide almost every information needed to prepare a recipe.

Williams-Sonoma cookbooks are available at all NBS branches.

New book on managing work and career

ARE you in the right career path or do you want to shift careers to have a more balanced life?

Career development specialist Dr. Josefina O. Santamaria provides the answers to this all-important question in her latest book, "Managing Work and Career."

The 90-page, seven-chapter book contains essays on practical tips in managing one's career path and making work productive and rewarding. It offers employees a good fit between their personality and what they can become through the appropriate choice of work and profession.

The book presents tried-and-tested steps in making a career shift, keeping a job, coping with job loss and getting unstuck from a job you no longer want.

"Managing Work and Career" also provides students insights in choosing the right career and job even before graduation from college, as well as ways in discovering one's skills, interests, strengths and values. It also offers simple tips on how to succeed in one's first job and the work attitudes one should have.

The author is managing director of Career Systems Inc. and a contributing feature writer at the People at Work Section of the INQUIRER.

The book is available at leading bookstores. Call New Day Publishers at 9288046 and 9275982 or e-mail newdayorders@edsamail.com.ph.

Two Nick Joaquin books reissued

ANVIL Publishing has reissued "Cave and Shadows" and "Tropical Gothic," two classics from National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin.

First published in 1983, "Cave and Shadows" is a literary whodunit, set in motion by a mysterious death. Joaquin expertly weaves multi-layered meanings by interspersing Philippine historical fact with fiction.

"Tropical Gothic" is an intense collection of stories that include the "Summer Solstice," the inspiration for the film "Tatarin"; "Candido's Apocalypse," a twisted coming-of-age story; "Doña Jerónima," the legend of the nymph and her lover in a cave by the river Pasig; and other haunting tales.

Joaquin has won several awards, including the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts in 1996.

"Cave and Shadows" and "Tropical Gothic" are available in all National Book Store and PowerBooks branches. Call Anvil Publishing at 6375692.

Call for contributions to literary journal

TOMAS, the literary journal of the Center for Creative Writing and Studies (CCWS) of the University of Santo Tomas, is now accepting contributions for its eighth issue.

Poetry, fiction, essays (non-fiction, literary criticism and book reviews), in English or Filipino are welcome. Issue editors are Jose Victor Torres and Lourd de Veyra.

Forward all manuscripts with a short bio-data to the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies, G/F, St. Raymund's Bldg, UST, España, Manila. Or you can e-mail your contributions at abuos@yahoo.com.

Mailed contributions must be submitted both in hard copy and encoded in a clean diskette, in Rich Text Format or MS Word. The manuscripts will not be returned. All care will be taken, but no responsibility will be assumed in case of loss.

Deadline is on Nov. 30. Call 7313101 local 8281.

The 'Devil' is in the design detail

From page F1

ing a novel about the inner workings of a fashion magazine. Yet it isn't so much the workplace setting that has intrigued many, but "Devil's" central villain. The influential, eccentric and hopelessly despotic editor Miranda Priestly makes "Devil" come alive but has also triggered talk that Priestly, one of the most despicable and yet delicious characters written in recent mainstream fiction, is actually a disguised portrayal of Wintour, despite Weisberger's repeated denials.

Readers, however, should try to approach this book without that suspicion. By doing so, they will find a book that is both irresistible and uneven, a book one feels one is not supposed to like but has to finish anyway. It's better than the majority of the lookalike novels riding on the so-called "Chick Lit" phenomenon, and yet isn't quite as good as you want it to be.

"Devil" takes readers on the post-grad blues (and reds and blacks) of one Andrea Sachs, fresh from her around-the-world trip of discovery and now hopeful to earn a living. Though she wants to write eventually for the New Yorker, Andrea winds up somehow as the number one slave to Miranda, the editor in chief of the influential Runway magazine.

Crazy quilt

What happens next is a crazy quilt of events as Andrea struggles mightily to fit in and do her job even as she tries to keep her skeptical boyfriend Alex and help her alcoholic friend Lily from completely messing up. It is a heady whirlpool of personal problems and professional purgatory, all tied together by bright bows of megalomania and ambition. Welcome to fashion heaven and hell.

"Devil," however, is less about Andrea's life as about what goes on around it. The relentless push and shove of life in New York City, the dizzying push of the fashion seasons, the blood-draining schedules at Runway and, of course, the utterly unreasonable demands of Miranda.

In the process, Andrea winds up questioning what kind of life she really wants to live as she seesaws between the two extremes. What is clear is that she hates Miranda with all her soul even as she desperately curries the editor's favor.

"Devil," however, is less effective when charting the ebb and flow of Andrea's New York state of mind. It is effective when staging the entire midnight-to-midnight express of the fashion journalist's life.

Effective, though not terribly efficient. Weisberger's prose can be surprisingly messy at times; yet when she lays on the details and the flurry of activity in the magazine, she can sometimes evoke the bracing pop-culture clutter of Brett Easton Ellis's "Glamorama," though it has to be pointed out that "Glamorama" is the superior book. "Devil" has its momentary charms, but the end product is a mixed bag, as much confection as witch's brew.

Perhaps it is fitting that the book's most memorable caricature is Miranda, and not Andrea. Like the malfunctioning shark in Steven Spielberg's "Jaws," Miranda is used sparingly but to great effect, a vibrant, vicious character befitting her overwrought name. Between her calling people arbitrary names, expecting them to do what she has yet to ask them to do, to find copies of the new "Harry Potter" book before they officially come out and her just plain privileged meanness, Miranda is the force of nature that just tears through "Devil."

Entrancing

Like a hurricane sashaying down the runway, Miranda entrances you just as you learn to loathe her. It is as if Miranda is deliberately cooking up new, impossible tasks for her flunkies to accomplish yet rewarding them with nothing but disdain and her presence. You will dread ever having your name spoken in Miranda's distinctive sing-song manner, dripping with condescension and dollar signs. Readers will hate her and be thankful they don't have a boss like her.

But "Devil" really only comes alive when she's on the page, and she can really be on the page only so much.

As the fashion lifestyle swallows Andrea and everything around her, the idealistic protagonist must, of course, face up to the wages of her decision to work at Runway, haunted by Miranda's cell-phone calls, the Elias-Clark Building becoming her heart of darkness. Yet most of the chaotic goings-on are just decoration, a smokescreen that serves to divert the readers from the fact that very little by way of plot twist is going on. There is a very sharp linear progression to Andrea's development as a character and readers not yet seduced by all the glossy details will see the denouement coming from a mile away.

Perhaps the most obviously disappointing touch is the hurried ending, which is at once predictable and unsatisfactory. It's almost if Weisberger knew how she wanted to end it but couldn't be bothered to devote the same amount of attention she lavished on the ornamental paragraphs on such a silly thing as the book's conclusion.

Despite all the distraction thrown at the reader, it is readily apparent that, left to just Andrea's story, "Devil" is a supermodel-thin construction, a scarf of a book, intriguing but almost transparent.

"The Devil Wears Prada" has received an inordinately hysterical amount of press and seems like a great idea, but now that you have it in your closet, you realize maybe it isn't exactly the designer brand you wanted.

Available at National Book Store and PowerBooks.

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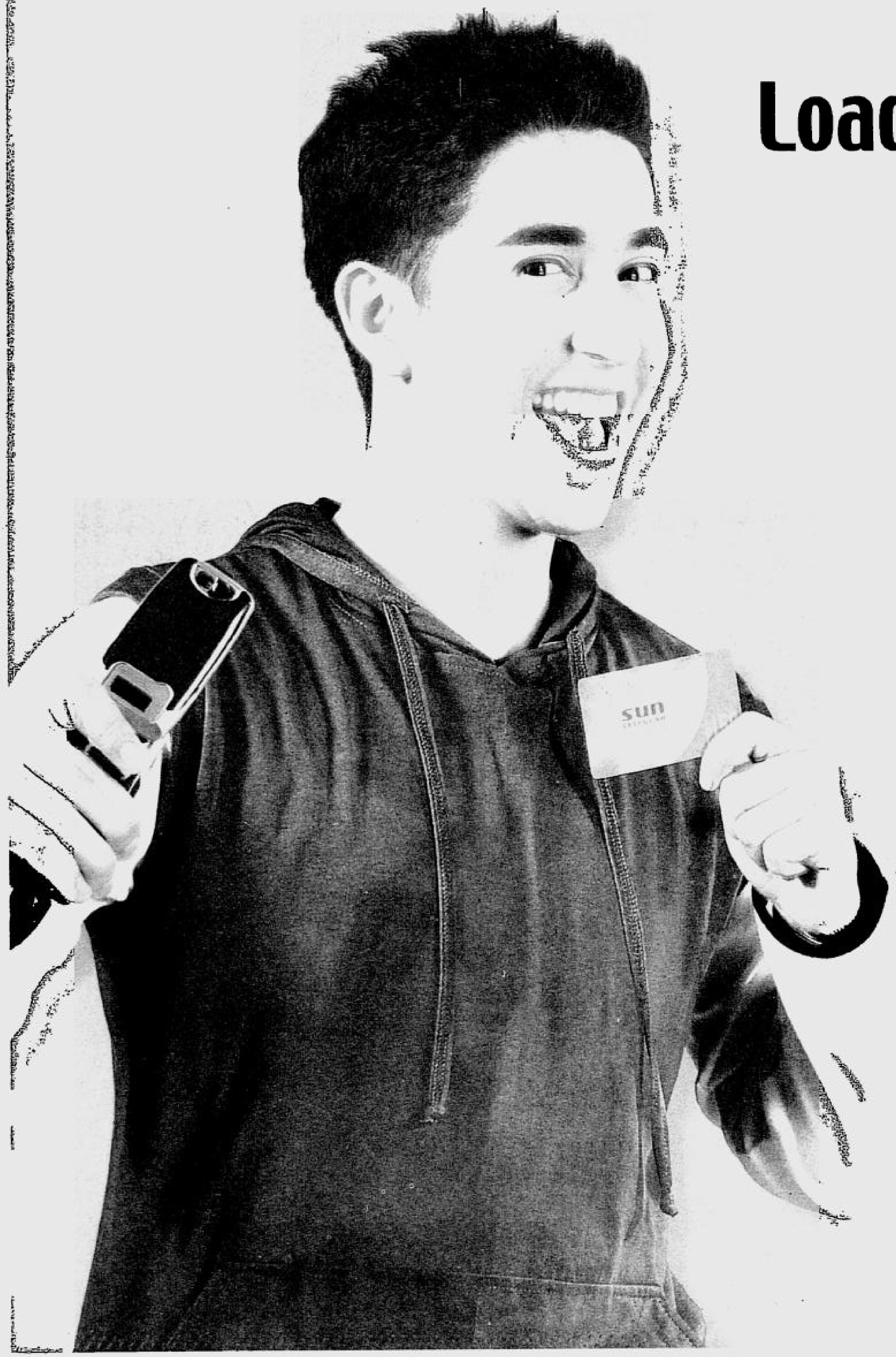

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4548, Series of 2003.

Money Market Association of the Philippines

32 years and back to the future

By Joel V. Nigos

RABBONI B. Arjonillo, MART president

"NECESSITY breeds invention," it has been always said. This pretty much describes the beginnings of the Money Market Association of the Philippines or MART.

Established in 1971 as a response to the continued growth and sophistication of the money market which started in the '60s, MART has become the medium through which dealers and brokers professionalize their trade.

Throughout the years, it has espoused the promotion, development, expansion and regulation of a free and open market for fixed-income securities. It had also passed through major upheavals and significant events but has emerged responsive to the needs of the times.

MART today has come to be regarded as an equal partner in the national government's pursuit of the development of the Philippine securities market. It now has in its fold 67 members, both banks and non-bank financial institutions that actively trade fixed-income securities in the market. It is duly recognized by all regulatory bodies and other government agencies and is consulted on matters pertaining to fixed-income securities. It has also established trading guidelines and conventions in order to regulate the trading activities of member institutions. This brings the association at par with the standards of its regional and global counterparts.

But these achievements of MART haven't made it stop and sit on its laurels. According to MART president Rabboni B. Arjonillo, the money market is a constantly changing market. He says the organization has to be dynamic in order to gear up for the challenges of the future, while continuing to be steadfast in the pursuit of its goals.

Changing market

Arjonillo says the changes in the money market today as compared to five years ago can be summed up in four aspects—the risk, product, process and tax perspectives.

By risk aspect, he means the market has become more aware of the risks inherent in the trading and positioning business and their impact on the bank's profitability. He says BSP Circular 102 has helped them brought to consciousness the importance of risk management processes to mitigate market and credit risks.

On the product perspective, Arjonillo says "such risks have spawned the introduction of derivatives as a hedging mechanism for the whole financial markets." He adds that the depth and liquidity of the market for fixed income instruments has also led to the creation of a fixed income exchange which provides investors a venue for price discovery and efficient settlement across many financial instruments and markets.

Arjonillo describes the changing process angle as the streamlining of trading conventions in various financial markets. "This is the era where delivery-versus-payment is a reality. It is now fast taking shape," he emphasizes.

"From a tax viewpoint, the market has retrogressed somewhat with the imposition of VAT on bank transactions and the persistence of government to tax financial products. This has resulted in higher intermediation costs, a bane to the development of a robust financial market," he says.

But as in previous years, MART has been abreast with these changes.

"We have responded to these rapid developments by espousing a global outlook in our objective of maintaining relevance among our various publics," explains Arjonillo.

This, he says, has resulted to MART going beyond the traditional fixed income market it has served for more than three decades.

"We have entered the bigger interest rate market where the whole range of financial products abounds. This move augurs well as we become more informed, educated and skilled to be at par with our global counterparts," beams Arjonillo.

Accomplishments

Asked what significant accomplishments the organization has achieved this year, Arjonillo says, "We have done an F4!" an allusion to the popular Taiwanese group of "Meteor Garden" fame. By F4 he means firefighting, fabricating, fellowship and fitness.

On the firefighting front, Arjonillo says that MART has made strong representations to the Bureau of Treasury as early as April this year for them to shoulder half of the VAT paid by banks on fixed income instruments. This has resulted in substantial savings for the banking industry.

"Representations have also been made, through the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), for the reversion to gross receipts taxation for the banking industry," he says. This is on top of the request for the abolition of the Documentary Stamp Tax on Inter-bank Call Loan transactions beyond five days and up to 180 days which is now being prepared for lobbying in Congress; the benchmarking for Retail Treasury Bonds and the revisions of the conventions for trading fixed income securities; the drawing up of guidelines which defines the information-sharing activities of its three service providers, namely Moneyline-Telerate, Reuters and Bloomberg, and the sprucing up of the MART's website which will be re-launched this November.

In its fabrication efforts, he says they have already started doing inter-bank trading of interest rate swaps.

"With this, the market now has a way to hedge long-term interest rate risk. This milestone underscores this product's role in the eventual development of the capital markets in the Philippines," he says. He adds that the MART1 fixing benchmarks are now considered the industry standard for pricing of different financial products including loans and other interest rate products.

Also included in its fabrication efforts is its intention to become a self-regulatory body like SEC or BSP. "MART is preparing for this self-regulation status by drafting its own set of conventions and best practices for sales agents and investment managers. We are also tying up with the Fixed Income Exchange to draw up the infrastructure to be able to eventually license all investment firms that distribute financial products to retail investors," says Arjonillo.

MART has also asked the BSP to allow long-term fixed income instruments as liquidity reserves to reduce intermediation costs and to create liquidity in the longer end of the yield curve. It has also taken cognizance of the role of education as seminars and economic briefings are scheduled as part of the MART Week this November. Its social responsibility effort focuses on helping Gawad Kalinga, a holistic poverty alleviation campaign that includes housing, education, health and livelihood.

Fellowship, meanwhile, took on a new dimension when for the first time in MART's history, a teambuilding session was held in Tagaytay for board members and committee representatives last January. This has resulted to more planned activities for the year. Fitness fanatics were also not disappointed as emphasis on having a sound body to have a sound mind was revived. Various sports activities were held including bowling, chess, game of the generals, scrabble, tennis and badminton.

Organizational structure

Aside from F4, Arjonillo says MART considers the organizational structure it has initiated this year as another milestone.

"This is geared toward responding to the developments in the global Interest Rate Markets. We have divided the Operations Committee into two teams. Team One includes Policy Research and Help Desk Subcom, Liquidity and Reserves/RTGS/DVP Subcom, Public Distribution Subcom, Professional Markets Subcom (formerly Fixing Banks). Team Two, meanwhile, includes Interest Rate Derivatives, FCDU, Foreign Bonds, and Thrift Banks and Investment Houses Issues," he says.

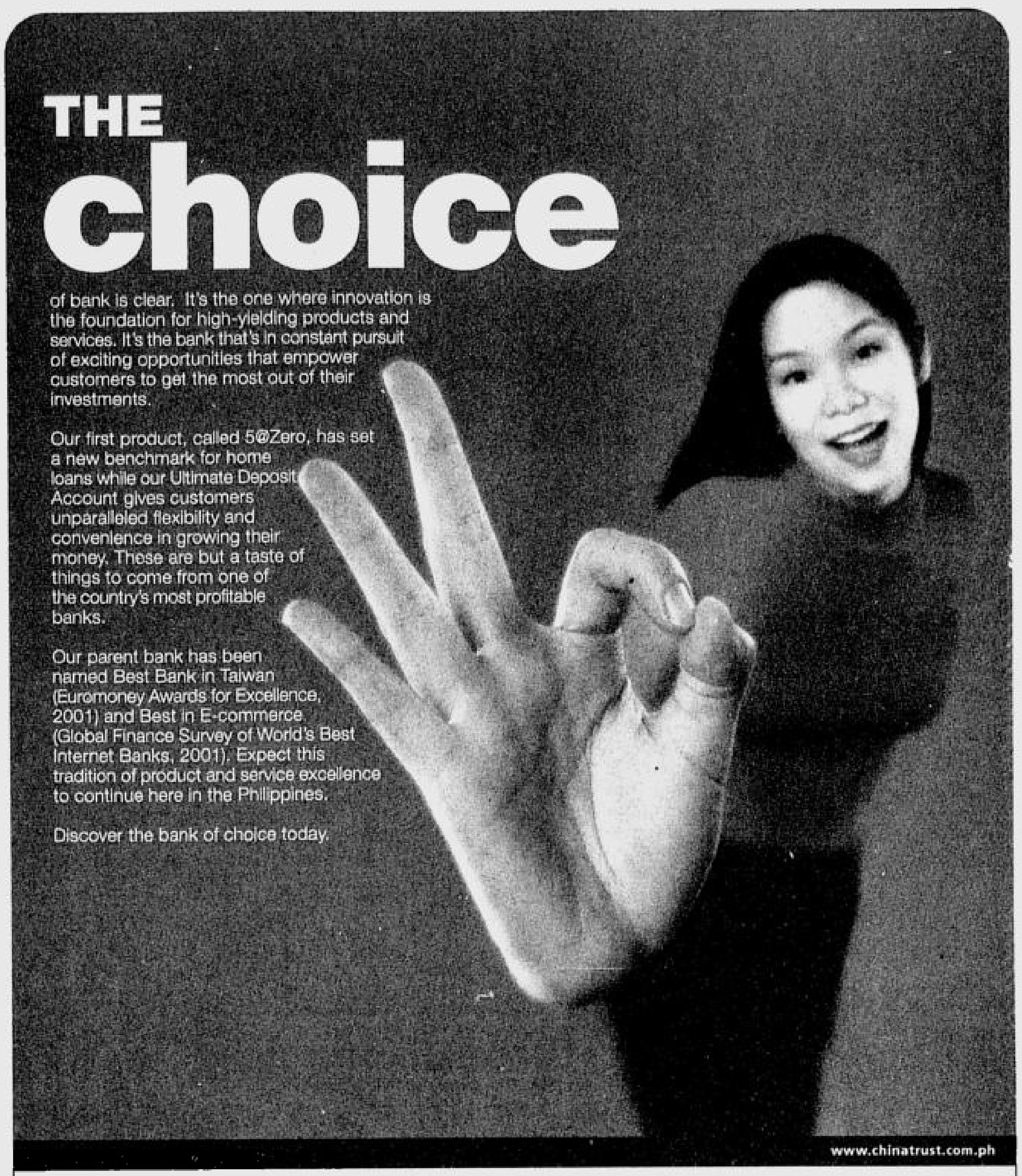
The organizational structure, Arjonillo says, would eventually help tap the talents of the association and utilize it in all the initiatives it wants to undertake this year. He adds that these are positive developments for MART and asserts that these are sustainable.

"We're now sticking to our vision which is 'To be the acknowledged prime mover in the development of the interest rate markets and responsive to the needs of its members and publics.' This, we hope, will help position MART as a catalyst for the country's eventual economic take-off," he says.

He adds that MART has also laid the foundation to meet these challenges by opening up the association to not just being a fixed-income focused entity into a major player in the broader interest rate market.

"We are also looking at merging with the ACI Financial Markets Association, which has primarily been a foreign exchange-focused association. With market developments globally blurring the distinction between the two as products transcend the purely interest rate or purely foreign exchange molds, the logical conclusion is a marriage of the two. Besides, it makes economic sense for banks to support only one association in these financially trying times," he explains.

Arjonillo sees a brighter future ahead for MART. He sees the realization of the merger between MART and ACI in two years time. He also foresees the spinning off of its public distribution arm into a full-fledged association licensing sales persons and distributors of financial products such as government securities, commercial papers and foreign exchange products. He emphasizes that this will help professionalize the market, thus preventing fly-by-night firms that promise instant gains from victimizing unsuspecting retail investors.



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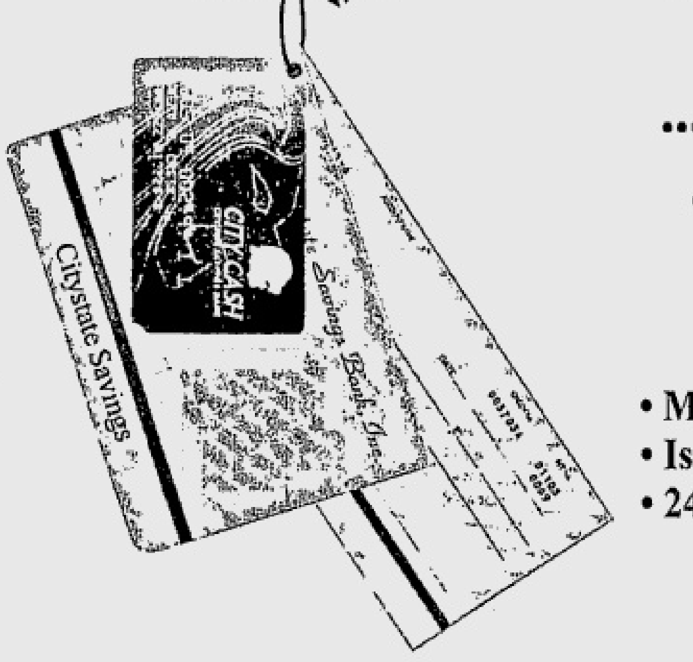

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I CONVEY my warmest greetings to the officers and member organizations of the Money Market Association of the Philippines (MART) as you celebrate your 32nd Anniversary.

The "6th Money Market Consciousness Week" is a good occasion to promote the money market industry in the country. The expansion of money market operations is desirable because it will mobilize savings from a greater segment of our economy for our development efforts. Indeed, more active stakeholders translate into stronger economic and financial foundations.

Hand in hand, let us sustain our efforts to standardize and professionalize trading practices in the local market industry. While our Administration focuses on formulating enabling regulatory policies, I expect MART to raise the standards of excellence and cooperation to make our initiatives work and sustain the gains we have posted over the last years.

Again, happy anniversary and more power to all of you!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I EXTEND my warm greetings to the members of the Money Market Association of the Philippines (MART) on the holding of its 6th Money Market Consciousness Week.

Over the years, we have seen the steady growth and increasing sophistication of the Philippine financial market. This development has given rise to the need for more awareness on the part of the investing public.

Today, our economic managers have been pursuing a mission of improving the Philippine investment climate and providing our countrymen with the fruits of national development. We in government continue to fulfill this mission by providing our financial services institutions with a level playing field and opportunities for business growth and progress. We are confident that this Money Market Consciousness Week celebration will spur the money market industry to further its vision and aspirations towards establishing stronger ties with the Filipino people and the government.

As a former investment banker myself, and now Secretary of Finance and head of the Economic Team, I am proud of MART's contributions to national development the last three decades.

Mabuhay, and keep the torch burning.

JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary
Department of Finance

CONGRATULATIONS to the Money Market Association of the Philippines (MART) on its 32nd anniversary and its celebration of Money Market Consciousness Week.

Indeed, for countries such as ours which depend on the debt market for most of its capital requirements, the development of a deep and broad-based capital market is rightfully a matter of national priority. I am glad therefore that MART continues to be at the forefront of this undertaking.

With a membership base that includes the country's biggest banks and financial institutions, MART has accomplished much in terms of professionalizing trading practices, a critical factor in the development of a robust capital market.

MART along with BAP and IHAP should be cited as well for their initiative in developing Cash Settled Securities Swap Transactions (CSST), a liquidity mechanism that will deepen the secondary market especially for long-term debt securities. The MOA for CSST was signed last week with the Bureau of Treasury and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. This is a milestone in terms of mobilizing capital for job creation and providing a better life for our people.

I hope therefore that MART remains steadfast in its goal to constantly find new ways to push for the full development of the Philippine capital market.

Again, our congratulations.

RAFAEL B. BUENAVENTURA
Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

MY WARMEST greetings and congratulations to the officers and members of the Money Market Association of the Philippines (MART) as you celebrate your 32nd anniversary.

Looking back into the history of MART, you really have reason to celebrate. Indeed, the achievements you have reached through all these years of hard work and dedication to standardize and professionalize trading practices have made your association what it is today.

Let not the hard times and challenges dissipate your energy to actively assist in the development of a free and robust domestic debt market. On the contrary, I urge you to let these trials inspire you to respond positively and have a stronger commitment to support the critical capital requirements of our nation's development.

Again, congratulations.

EDUARDO SERGIO G. EDEZA
Treasurer of the Philippines

I WOULD like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the members of Money Market Association of the Philippines (MART) on the occasion of its 32nd anniversary celebration.

MART has been in the forefront in the development of the money and interest related market and has continued its vigilance in preserving the integrity, professionalism and relevance of its position in the financial industry today. With its strategic and pioneering plans and programs, the association has definitely achieved global standards and recognition for its efforts in pursuing capital market reforms, upgrading level of skills and knowledge of its members and fostering strong cooperation with regulatory authorities and counterpart industry associations.

I am confident that MART will pursue its goal with renewed vigor and will serve as a catalyst in the development of the Philippine financial market.

Mabuhay.

LILIA R. BAUTISTA
Chairperson
Securities and Exchange Commission

WE would like to extend our support to the Money Market Association of the Philippines as it holds its 6th Money Market Consciousness Week.

As the Association celebrates its 32nd year of fruitful existence, we are confident that MART will continue to pursue its goal of anchoring towards the existence of a free and robust domestic debt market. In an effort to assist the upswing of emerging markets like the Philippines, the MART continues to institute projects and activities with main objective of developing the capital markets through standardized and professionalized trading practices.

We are confident that such a laudable event will bring forth development in the industry and more importantly to that of the economy.

Again, congratulations and good luck in this important occasion.

CESAR E. A. VIRATA
President
Bankers Association of the Philippines

WARM greetings to all.

The financial markets have made rapid strides in the global arena in the last two decades. New products have sprouted to address the different financial risks in the market. New systems and trading conventions have been developed. And the domestic markets, through MART, have to keep in step with international best practices to remain robust and progressive. MART trailblazes to bring such positive developments to local shores with its theme for this year's MART Week: "The Interest Rate Markets: At Par with Global Standards."

I wish to thank all our Excom and board of directors, whose dedication and commitment have made the year truly productive and fulfilling. MART has helped craft Central Bank and tax regulations, as well as, market conventions using global best practices. It has spearheaded the development of new products, particularly in the area of derivatives. And it has begun to educate and protect the small investor. As the program for the week shows, this week is the busiest in memory. This MART Week is a testament to the sterling efforts of all the committees to make this week truly meaningful. It is hoped that it will bring to our various publics a greater level of awareness of the important developments in the interest rate markets that will change the landscape of finance in the Philippines in the years ahead.

God bless us all.

(*Sgd*). RABBONI B. ARJONILLO
MART President

How to spot and avoid financial scams

By RJ Bumanglag

THE RECENT spate of financial scams that stormed the financial market has left some investors bruised while others were paralyzed. These "investment opportunities" seem to flourish during economic downturns and prey not only on small-time investors but also high net worth individuals who look for better income opportunities with their hard-earned monies. We shall look into the different investment scams proliferating in the market today and aspire to distinguish them from legal operations.

There are four common types of investment scams: Pyramiding, Ponzi scheme, Foreign Exchange Investment Fraud, and "Boiler Room" activities.

Pyramiding involves a recruiter or promoter enticing investors to be part of a business scheme that requires the investor to put in money to be part of the business scheme. Eventually, the investors would become the recruiters, themselves creating a pyramid-like structure. In one variation of this scheme, the promoter is tasked to offer the investors "exclusive distributor rights" for products that do not have real value or which are priced in an inflated manner. The focus of the pyramid scheme is the compensation for the recruitment of investors where the recruiters can recoup their investment by recruiting more investors. The SEC, in its advisory dated April 18, 2002, views the scheme as an illegal sale of investment contracts or securities because there is a common investment of money in a common enterprise where the investor is led to expect profits from the efforts of the promoter or a third party.

This is different from multi-level marketing whose primary purpose is to sell a product and not the distributorship itself. Income is derived from the products that they have sold themselves and from products sold by their recruits.

Ponzi scheme was named after Charles A. Ponzi, an Italian immigrant to the United States, who defrauded hundreds of investors in the 1920s. Under the scheme, a promoter entices an investor to invest a certain amount with a promise to pay back the principal with an interest higher than what is normally given by banks and other financial institutions. The promoter usually tells of an investment opportunity abroad where the investors can get an interest rate much higher than what they are getting locally. During this time, the promoter also entices other investors to invest in the scheme until the promoter is able to collect a large pool of money. At the end of the investment period the investors get paid with his principal and interest but the investor is likewise invited to reinvest the whole amount for another term. The scheme goes on until the promoter pays off investors who want to recoup their earnings. The "interest" in this scheme are drawn from the investment of others and not from a legitimate investment. The Agrix scam of the 70s, Gold Certificate fiasco, and Multitel are several examples of this type of investment scams.

The Foreign Exchange Investment Fraud involves large amounts of placements in foreign denominated currencies (usually in US Dollars). The investors are led to believe that they are investing with a company in a highly regulated currency futures market which employ "sophisticated" trading guidelines. The traders of the company actually have no currency trading experience and the investors actually trade against the company's position without the formers' knowledge. The traders are then unable to provide substantial evidence of the investors' trading positions, and the investors are subsequently left with nothing to hold on to.

Boiler Rooms are companies that employ "sweet-talking" and "market savvy" brokers that offer investment opportunities to dubious companies by tapping high net worth individuals. The scheme starts with the brokers as telemarketers offering opportunities to invest in businesses that they have an "inside track" on. They send out finely printed brochures to complement their sales pitch and force prospects to make immediate decisions. Once the investor gets duped into buying into the company, the salesman requests that the payment be wired to the company's accounts. A movie with the same title starring Giovanni Ribisi, Vin Diesel, and Ben Affleck portrays how a typical boiler room company works.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has already released an advisory for investors to be wary of these scam artists and to be made aware of their modus operandi. The US Trade Commission recently released six tips on how to evaluate and distinguish a pyramid scam versus a legitimate multi-level marketing.

1. Avoid any plan that includes commissions for recruiting additional distributors.
2. Beware of plans that ask new distributors to purchase expensive inventory.
3. Be cautious of plans that claim you will make money through continued growth of your "downline" rather than through sales of products you make yourself.
4. Beware of plans that claim to sell miracle products or promise enormous earnings. Ask the promoter of the plan to substantiate claims with hard evidence.
5. Beware of "shills" - decoy references paid by a plan's promoter to describe their fictional successes in earning money through the plan.
6. Do not pay or sign any contracts in an "opportunity meeting" or any other high-pressure situation. Insist on taking your time to think and consult others before deciding.

Ponzi schemes, Boiler rooms, and Foreign Exchange Investment Fraud may seem hard to detect at first but through proper investigation, the public will not get duped into investing their hard-earned money in these types of scams. Investors should look into the investment vehicles and know more about the companies that the scam artists are offering. The public is warned of investment schemes that offer high returns over a short period of time. They should also be wary of pressure from the promoters to "roll-over" their funds. Banks should be wary of the quantity of checkbooks the promoter is requesting. A scam artist once asked for thirty thousand checkbooks from their bank.

The SEC, in cooperation with the Philippine Stock Exchange Foundation, Investment Houses Association of the Philippines (IHAP), Investment Company Association of the Philippines (ICAP), and the Money Market Association of the Philippines (MART) launched three 30-second infomercial awareness programs aimed to educate the investors on these investment scams and fraudulent activities. Infomercials depicting the usual schemes of these proponents is just one of the tools of the SEC in the public awareness of these schemes proliferating today.

Scam artists are now thinking of more clever ways of convincing and deceiving investors into parting with their life savings. The Securities and Exchange Commission has established guidelines and circulars to prevent or at least minimize the proliferation of these schemes in the market and to hold the integrity of the financial system in place. Ultimately, the investors are tasked to look into companies offering investment alternatives with more caution. As the advertisement says: before you invest, investigate.

MART is also inviting the public to a forum on Financial Scams on Nov. 4, 1:30 p.m. at the Molina Hall, Equitable PCI Bank. This is free of charge.

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MART vision, mission and values

VISION

TO BE the acknowledged prime mover in the development of the interest rate markets responsive to the needs of its members and publics.

MISSION

OUR MISSION is to be a key instrument in the development of the local interest rate markets to global standards leading to economic growth. In pursuit of our mission, we commit to our stakeholders the following:

TO OUR MEMBERS:

We will serve as the institutional medium in addressing their collective needs in view of a changing financial environment.

TO OUR REGULATORS:

We will collaborate in formulating relevant policies and procedures.

TO THE INVESTING PUBLIC:

We will protect and educate the investing public through fair play, transparency and use of best practices.

OUR VALUES

PROFESSIONALISM

Observing the highest standards of competence in the industry.

INTEGRITY

Maintaining high moral standards and ethics.

PRO-ACTIVITY

Being forward looking and initiating actions.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Sensitive to public interests and uplifting society.

DYNAMISM

Ability to anticipate and respond to change

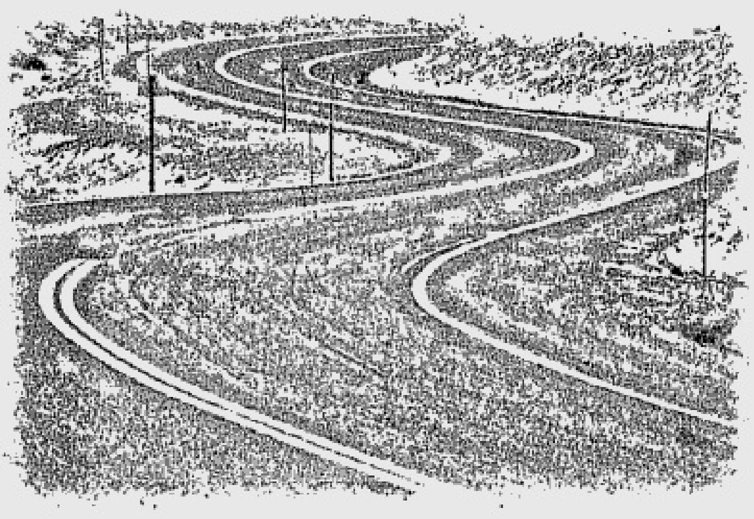
COMMITMENT

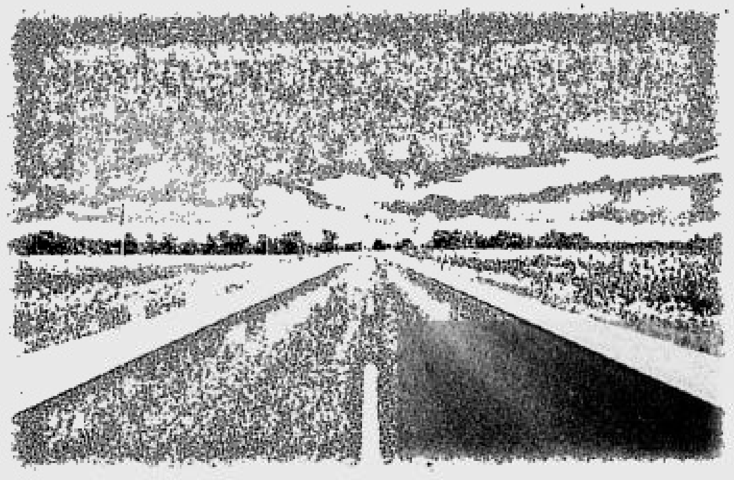
Dedication to the cause of the association.

MART'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
From left, Asterio L. Favis Jr., RVP (PNB), Rabboni B. Arjonillo, VP (Citibank), Mariquita L. Agena, FVP (MBTC) and Narciso L. Eraña, FVP (RCBC)

2003 Table of Activities

Date	Day	Time	Activity	Location
October 25, 2003	Saturday	8:00 AM	Outreach Activity in Pangarap Shelter	
October 30, 2003	Thursday	7:00 AM	Radio Interview at Saksi sa DZBB with Mike Enriquez	
November 3, 2003	Monday	5:30 PM	Mass Celebration	Hotel Intercon, Makati
		6:30 PM	4th General Assembly *Guest Speaker Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho* *Department of Finance* Induction of new members AFPSLAI JPMORGAN TIDCOR Mart Donation to Gawad Kalinga Re-launch of MART Website	Hotel Intercon, Makati
November 4, 2003	Tuesday	9:00 AM	Seminar on Fundamentals of Interest Rate Swaps sponsored by Reuters *Speaker Peter Lai, Fixed Income Specialist* *Reuters South East Asia*	RCBC Plaza, Makati City
		10:00 AM	Basics of Money Market *Speaker Rabboni B. Arjonillo, Vice President* *Citibank, N.A.*	La Salle University, Bacolod
		2:00 PM	Television interview at ANC Live Channel 21	
		2:00 PM	Economic Briefing for Businessmen *Speaker Luz L. Lorenzo, Group Economist* *ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners, Inc.*	Bacolod
		2:00 PM	Economic Briefing for Businessmen *Speaker Jose Noel M. Mendoza, Vice President* *Santander Investment Securities Phils., Inc.*	Dumaguete
		1:30 PM	Forum on Financial Scams *Speaker Atty. Eloisa Gan, SEC*	Equitable-PCI Tower, Makati City
November 5, 2003	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Market Reading Seminar *Speakers Marcelo C. Fernando, Jr., Financial Markets Head* *Rabboni B. Arjonillo, Risk Treasury Head* *Citibank, N.A.*	Ateneo Center, dela Costa St. Makati City
		9:00 AM	Seminar on FRA Pricing and Evaluation (Derivity Analytics Application) sponsored by Moneyline Telerate *Speaker: Roy B. Lacsamana*	9/F Tower One, Enterprise Center, Makati City
November 6, 2003	Thursday	8:30 AM 2:30 PM	Basics of Money Market for undergraduates Fundamental and Technical Analysis for MBA Students *Speaker Rabboni B. Arjonillo, Vice President* *Citibank, N.A.*	Holy Name University, Bohol
		9:00 AM	Seminar on Fixed Income Management sponsored by Bloomberg *Speaker Michael Kim-Hung Lee, Applications Specialist* *Bloomberg Hong Kong*	Makati City
		10:00 AM	Basics of Money Market *Speaker Wilfredo S. Talastas, Vice President* *Bank of America*	Silliman University, Dumaguete City
		1:30 PM	Seminar on Fixed Income Portfolio Management sponsored by Bloomberg *Speaker Michael Kim-Hung Lee, Applications Specialist* *Bloomberg Hong Kong*	Makati City
		3:00 PM	Economic Briefing for Businessmen *Speaker Jonathan L. Ravelas, AVP Economic Research* *Banco de Oro Universal Bank*	Cebu City
November 7, 2003	Friday	9:00 AM	Economic Briefing for Businessmen *Speaker Paul Joseph M. Garcia, VP/Chief Investment Officer* *ING Bank*	Tagbilaran, Bohol
		9:00 AM	Basics of Money Market *Speaker Wilfredo S. Talastas, Vice President* *Bank of America*	Univ. of San Carlos, Cebu
		4:00 PM	Product Session Cash Settled Securities Swap Transaction *Speaker Mr. Roland Avante, SVP - Treasurer* *Chinatrust*	Bohol Tropics, Bohol
		4:00 PM	Product Session Interbank Trading of Interest Rate Swaps *Speaker Mr. Johnson Sia, Vice President* *Citibank N.A.*	same
		4:00 PM	Product Session Capital Adequacy and the Basel II Accord *Speaker Mr. Rolando Valenzuela, Vice President* *Export and Industry Bank*	same
		6:00 PM	MART Convention *Guest Speaker Roberto L. Panlilio* *Chairman, BAP Open Market Committee* *Country Head, JP Morgan*	Bohol Tropics, Bohol
November 8, 2003	Saturday	8:00 AM	Bohol Educational Tour	Tagbilaran, Bohol
		5:00 PM	Anticipated Mass	Bohol Tropics, Bohol
		6:30 PM	Treasurer's Forum	same
		7:30 PM	Fun Night	same





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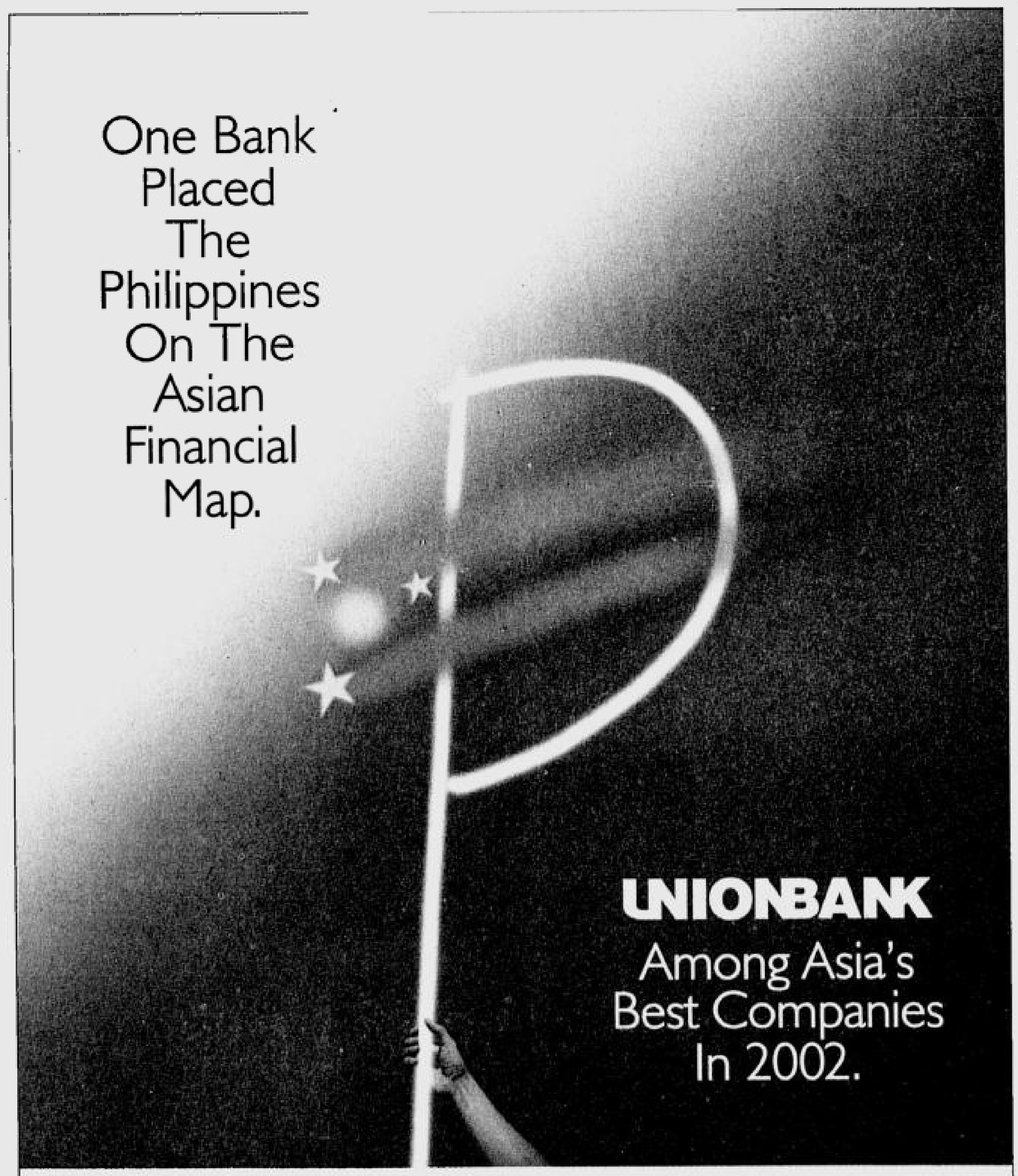

One Bank Placed The Philippines On The Asian Financial Map.
UNIONBANK
Among Asia's Best Companies In 2002.

UnionBank of the Philippines is one of Asia's Best Companies in 2002, according to EUROMONEY of London, a leading journal of the world's capital and money markets. The ranking is a survey among market analysts at major banks and research institutes in Asia and was based on market strength, profitability, growth potential, quality of management and earnings.

ASIA'S BEST COMPANIES – BANKING & FINANCE		
1.	ICICI Bank	India
2.	Thai Farmers Bank	Thailand
	HDFC Bank	India
	HSBC	Hong Kong
5.	HDFC	India
6.	Maybank	Malaysia
7.	**UnionBank of the Philippines**	**Philippines**
	Public Bank	Malaysia
	State Bank of India	India
10.	Kookmin Bank	Korea
11.	United Overseas Bank	Singapore

ASIA'S BEST SMALL COMPANIES		
1.	Jollibee Foods Corporation	Philippines
2.	**Abolitz Equity Ventures**	**Philippines**
3.	**UnionBank of the Philippines**	**Philippines**
	Gemtek	Taiwan
5.	Bank NISP	Indonesia
6.	Dynaplast	Indonesia
	Techtronic	Hong Kong
8.	Cafe de Coral	Hong Kong
	Eicher Motors	India
	Transmile	Malaysia

ASIA'S BEST COMPANIES – PHILIPPINES		
1.	SM Prime Holdings	Property
2.	Jollibee Foods Corporation	Food
	JG Summit	Conglomerate
3.	**UnionBank of the Philippines**	**Banking**

ASIA'S BEST COMPANIES – WEBSITE		
1.	Infosys	India
2.	ICICI Bank	India
3.	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp.	Taiwan
4.	Wipro	India
5.	Sung Hung Kai Properties	Hong Kong
	United Microelectronics Corp.	Taiwan
7.	PLDT	Philippines
8.	**UnionBank of the Philippines**	**Philippines**
	China Mobile	Hong Kong
10.	SK Telecom	Korea